

80th Anniversary
Commemorative Edition

The tie that binds since 1926

THE CORD WEEKLY

CORD HISTORY: 1996-2006

We finally come full circle on 80 years of student journalism at WLU with the final installment of the year-long project ... **CORD HISTORY, 14-15**

NEWSMAKERS OF THE YEAR

What do varsity athletes, student media and the Liberal Party have in common? They're all on our list of the top 10 newsmakers of the publishing year ... **NEWSMAKERS, 6-7**

STUDENTS' PASSION 'N' MOTION

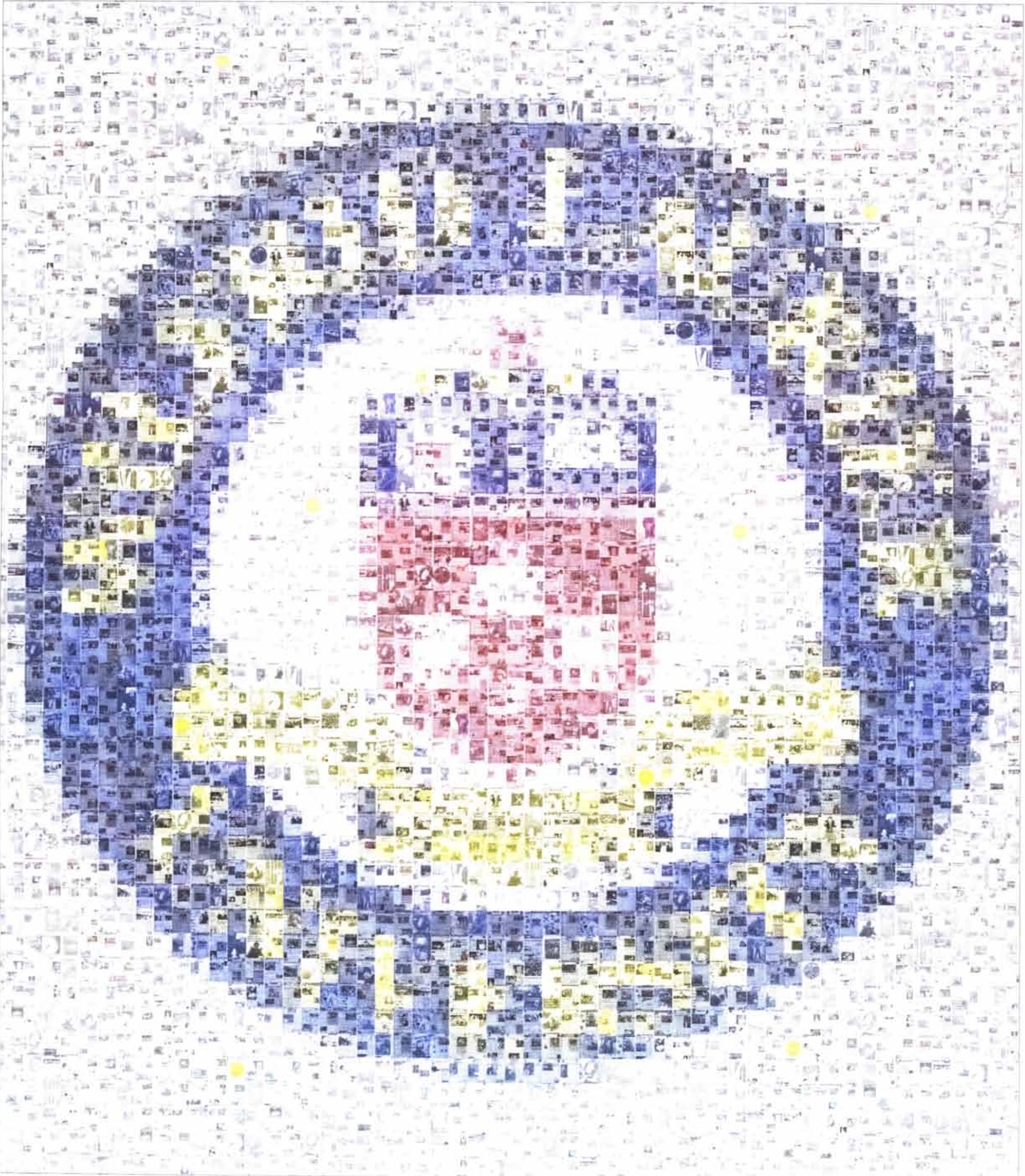
We take an in-depth look at the wildly popular show and find that this year's edition, "Spring Forward", was well choreographed to help a good cause ... **STUDENT LIFE, 16**

Volume 46 Issue 28

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2006

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80 years binding WLU



THE CORD WEEKLY

The tie that binds since 1926 •
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Waterloo, Ontario
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2006
VOLUME 46 ISSUE 28

Next Issue: Not Anytime Soon...

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"For my section I suggested having bigger boots."
- Changing Opinion Editor Carly Beath on what she wrote in her
transition report for next year's Opinion section editor

WORDS OF THE WEEK
journalistic excellence (n.): The unexcused and self-congratulatory (and usually attractive) Cord Staff prides itself on its journalistic excellence.

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COLOPHON
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Preamble to The Cord Constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news
and opinions of opinions competently, accurately
and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation
of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all pertinent
opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical
conventions of journalism. When a case of omission or of
commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged
promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual
or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity
to reply at the earliest time possible.

Critical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently
conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of inter-
est will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world
around it, and in The Cord will attempt to cover its world
with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the
community of Waterloo, and with a special cut in
the coverage of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University.
Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy
nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press
and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when
debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal
workings of the paper, and through The Cord's contact with
the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with full
of member representation, and consultation. The purpose of the
student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so
shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Tragic end to student's life

Death caused by heart
condition; friends and
family mourn

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

In a lot of ways, Laurier student
Mike Dwyer will never be able to
come to school and feel the same
way again. Walking around camp-
us, sitting in class, making plans
for the weekend outside the Fred
Nichols building - Mike knows
that something will be missing.

Last week, on Tuesday March
21, Mike's close friend and fellow
student Josh Weinstein, 20,
passed away at his family's home
suddenly and without warning.

The last time anybody had spo-
ken to Josh was that very
Tuesday; a friend had called him
to see if he was going to be at
their 12:30 pm class. Josh said he
would be, but never showed up.
According to Dwyer, 19, Josh had
an undiagnosed heart condition,
which he succumbed to as soon
after he got off the phone.

His untimely death happened
just a week after his twentieth
birthday and a day before his
two-year anniversary with his
girlfriend.

"They were one of those cou-
ples who looked like they were
going to get married," he said.
Dwyer commented that this
tragedy could not have happened
to a nicer individual.

"Honestly, he was the kind of
guy you'd want to have as your
friend. He could make you laugh
no matter what. If you were hav-
ing the worst day of your life, he
would tell you the joke that
would make you laugh."

Dwyer and his friends plan to
honour Josh, who spent 15 years

playing for the Kitchener Minor
Boys Softball Association, by ask-
ing the league to create a sports-
manship award in Josh's name. It
would be a fitting tribute for a
devoted player who was never
without a baseball cap and who
was buried with a jersey and
glove.

Baseball was Josh's passion,
but if anything meant more to
him it was his family and friends.
When he wasn't at school or play-
ing ball, he was working along-
side his father, Terry, at Praxair, a
nearby manufacturing company.
He said that what he'll miss most
about his son is "just having him
around."

"Sometimes I just needed to
look at him and he knew what to
do," he recalled. "He was self-
motivated, he knew what he
needed to do and he just did it."

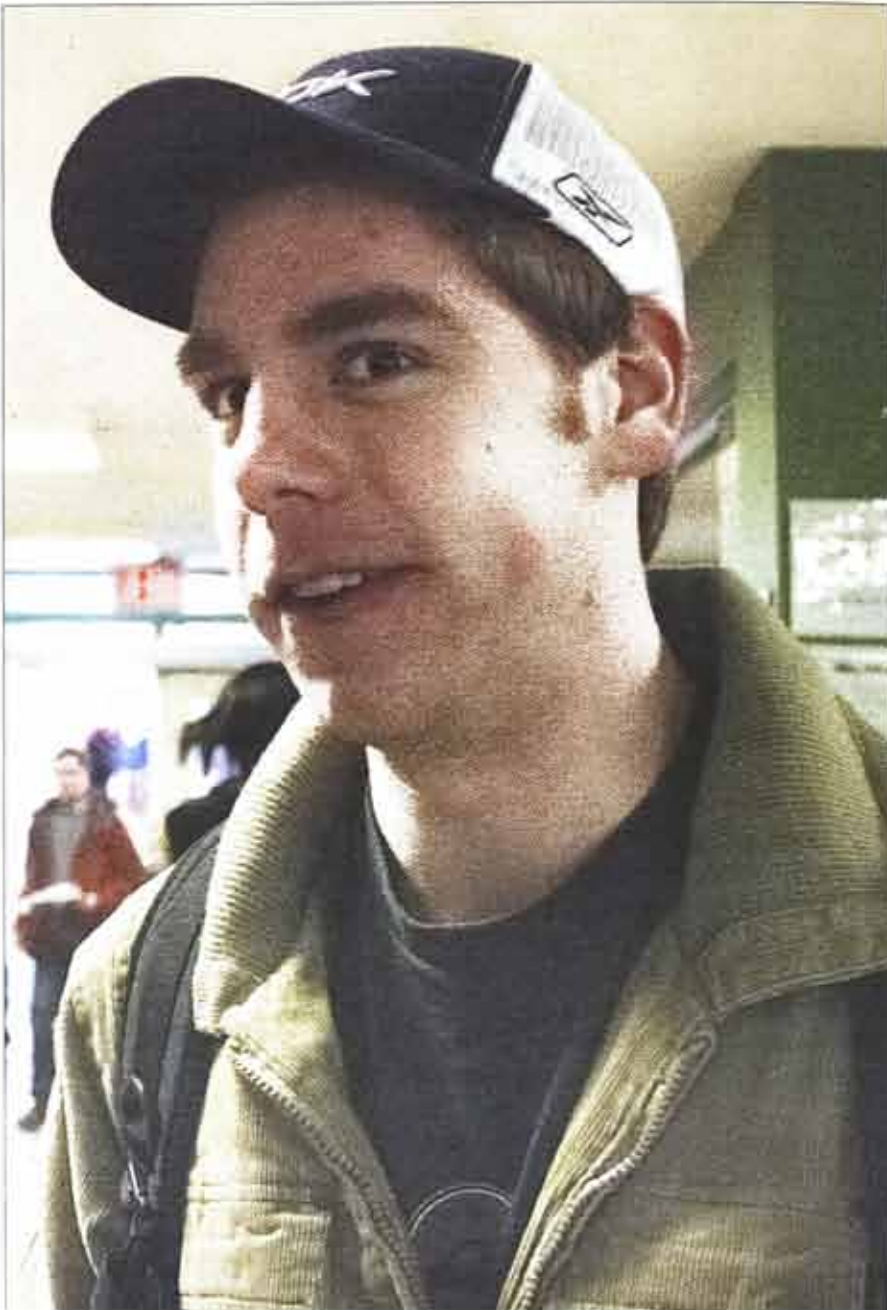
Josh never talked much about
school when he was home - he
was the type of student who
seemed to put in his time and
then go off to pursue other inter-
ests.

Josh's father was surprised to
see so many Laurier students and
professors attend the funeral, all
with stories about Josh and how
he would crack up his classes
with one-liners on days that
seemed to drone on.

On this day, the father learned
something new about his son.

"I found out he had this quiet
strength," he said. "He was gen-
uinely concerned for other
human beings. He really enjoyed
helping others, even if it was as
simple as lending a pen."

His mother, Carolyn, sees the
impact of Josh's kindness and his
ability to connect with others
through the immense support
the family has received from peo-
ple that knew her son. She knew
how loved he was in their own
family circle, but "didn't realize



File Photo

FOREVER SMILING - Weinstein (above) maintained a strong connection
with family and friends. He passed away one week after his 20th birthday.

how far that [love for Josh]
reached." She is deeply moved by
the tenderness and optimism
demonstrated by his friends and
fellow students.

"It's so encouraging to me that
there's this great generation out
there," she said. "And we will
carry on."

Dwyer, who has been one of
the friendly faces lending his sup-
port to the Weinsteins, wants the
student community to learn
something from Josh's tragic
passing.

"As corny as it sounds, don't let
go of your friends," he said. "Stay
as close as you can."

WLU's most outstanding woman

Women's hockey team member, Fiona Aiston, is recognized for her athletic and academic achievement

GINA RACINE
Cord News

Laurier student and Golden
Hawk Fiona Aiston was present-
ed with the first-ever
Outstanding Women of Laurier
Award last Thursday during a cer-
emonial luncheon.

Aiston, a third year Biology stu-
dent, felt completely honored to
be the first female at Laurier to
receive this award and believes it
to be very important to recognize
women with great achievements.

"It was such an honor [to
receive the award], and I had a
great afternoon," said Aiston.
"There was great support from
the community as well as
Laurier's Athletic Department."

The award seeks out female

students who combine athletic
and academic achievement with
an active commitment to the
community of Waterloo.

For her efforts, Aiston received
\$1,000 and a gold pendant.

Aiston has maintained an
excellent grade point average this
year while playing on the national
championship-winning
Laurier women's hockey team.

She also volunteers in the local
community for KidsAbility, an
organization that helps children
with disabilities. Aiston works
with children in a speech therapy
program and feels that "it's great
to be able to put a smile on a kid's
face."

She feels that involvement with
the local community is very
important for students.

"Getting involved in different
things is a big part of being in
university," she said. It is her
hope that this award will "push
students to reach out to the
Waterloo community."

With maintaining good grades,
participating in athletic events
and volunteering, it is hard to
imagine how Aiston is able to
keep up.

"Sometimes I don't sleep a lot,"
Aiston chuckled. "But time man-
agement is very important."

Next year, Aiston wants to fin-
ish her degree at Laurier and
attend medical school someday.

She also plans to continue vol-
unteering at KidsAbility, and
maybe, if she has time, win
another national championship.



Contributed Photo

WONDER WOMAN - Fiona Aiston is the
first Outstanding Woman of Laurier.

5 DAY ACTION NEWS
WEATHER FORECAST



Today	
Morning:	Afternoon:
Sunny 0°C 0% POP	Mainly Sunny 11°C 0% POP

Thursday	Friday
Variable Cloudiness High 12°C Low 1°C 20% POP	Thunder-showers High 15°C Low 5°C 80% POP

Saturday	Sunday
Showers High 11°C Low 3°C 60% POP	Cloudy Periods High 9°C Low -1°C 10% POP

VOCAL CORD

What was the biggest newsmaker for you this past year?



"The Vanier Cup championship."

- Laura Gray
Third Year Business



"The only thing I can think of is that streaking picture."

- Anton Dyck
Second Year Anthro.



"That cartoon article."

- Lidjia Bisak
Third Year Psychology



"The biggest newsmaker by far was 'The Gentleman's Guide.'"

- Asif Bacchus
Third Year Economics



"The averted strike with WLUFA."

- Jon Cameron
Third Year History

Compiled by Tony Ferguson,
photos by Jordan Jactus

Joe Forwell passes on



Sydney Holland

HEY JOE - A touching tribute to Joe Forwell appears on the billboard of the grocery store he's owned for 46 years at the corner of King and University.

'Kind, giving' local grocery store owner looked after student customers by passing out free loaves of bread

APRIL CUNNINGHAM
Special Projects Editor

Joe Forwell would give a free loaf of bread to anyone who couldn't afford it, no questions asked.

The local store owner died in his sleep on March 16 at the age of 83. He had owned and operated Forwell's Super Variety at King and University streets for 46 years.

"He was a kind, giving man," says Marg Gingerich, an employee at Forwell's who has worked in

the store for 21 years.

"He treated everyone [with respect] and that was his philosophy in life — treat people like you would like to be treated," she explained.

So it's no wonder Forwell's has placed the message, "We will miss you Joe," on the outdoor sign above the front doors.

Students were a huge part of his business. "He loved them," says Gingerich. "He made sure he catered to them here."

The store has always carried

the colours of Laurier frosh week in September and never hesitates to give financially struggling students a free loaf of bread, which Gingerich says will continue.

Forwell died peacefully of old age, Gingerich told *The Cord*. And he was healthy until the end. "He worked right up 'till two days before he died," says Gingerich.

Gingerich says that competition with other convenience stores in the area has never been

a problem.

"It wasn't difficult because he had built up his clientele through customer service," she says.

Forwell was a member of the Waterloo Knights of Columbus and had served overseas in the Second World War.

A funeral was held at St. Michael's Church on March 20. Any donations may be made to the Parkinson's Society or the Carmel of St. Joseph as expressions of sympathy through the Ratz-Bechtel Funeral Home.

WLU talks new faculty

Laurier to discuss the possibility of developing a Faculty of Education on April 5

BLAIR FORSYTH-STARK
Features Editor

On Wednesday, April 5 Wilfrid Laurier University will be hosting an open house to discuss plans for the proposed Faculty of Education. Still pending approval from the Ministries of Education and Training, Colleges and Universities, the project aims to open the faculty by September 2007.

"I think it fits in with [WLU's] Century Plan with offering a broader range of programs," said VP: Academic Sue Horton, one of the project's organizers. If the project is approved, Laurier has secured a temporary location for the faculty at Waterloo's District School Board. Horton notes that there will be future plans "to build or renovate a new building" to house the faculty in the future.

The proposed program for the faculty will be a consecutive program, requiring one year of schooling in addition to a recognized B.A., and will focus primarily on Primary/Junior teachers initially.

"We will be using a Professional Development school model that's been very successful in the US," explained Horton, as to the differences between this faculty and the pro-

grams available at McMaster and Brock universities.

The model, explained Horton, is "not an Ivory Tower Faculty of Education" but rather focuses on "involving [students] more in the schools and supporting them when they leave."

"I would definitely consider going there, it would be nice to stay at a school and community that I'm comfortable with."

- Rachel Douglas, Laurier student and aspiring school teacher

To date, Horton and Dr. Lynne Hannay, a visiting professor, have met with several different groups in order to start realizing this initiative, including a committee of superintendents and one of principals. By meeting with individuals involved in the teaching discipline, as well as the four school boards, Hannay and Horton hope to receive important feedback from those in the field.

When asked whether current faculty will be helping with the project, Horton indicated that "there are seven faculty already

interested" and that they will look to hire the rest.

Rachel Douglas, a third-year history and geography major looking to pursue a career in teaching, thinks the faculty is a great idea.

"I would definitely consider going there, it would be nice to stay at a school and community that I'm comfortable with."

Douglas also feels that by adding a Faculty of Education, Laurier undergraduate students will be clearer on the application process for teacher's college.

"Yeah, I would imagine it would make it a lot smoother transition."

Students will have to wait to see if this project will even come to fruition, as the Ministry has not yet responded to Laurier's proposal.

"If we don't hear by the end of June, we won't be able to open in 2007," explained Horton. Until then, students can receive more information at the open house on April 5, from 4pm to 5pm in SBE 1220.

Computer crime on campus

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

A recent streak of thefts this past week have only added to the list of crimes that need solving by the Laurier Security department.

The first such incident occurred this past Thursday morning at approximately 5:30 am. Two female roommates reported that an individual entered their unlocked dorm room at Conrad Hall, while they slept, and stole a laptop computer.

Awaking as the robber was making his getaway, the victims were able to get a quick glance of the individual. The caucasian male was described as wearing a baby blue hoodie and approximately 5'9" tall.

The stolen laptop was valued at \$2,000.

Three days later WLU Security received another report of a theft, this time at Waterloo College Hall (WCH) residence. Similarly, another laptop, valued at \$1,800 was stolen from another female's room.

It is believed that the theft occurred during a social function being held in the 'common room' of the residence. Upon returning to their room, the individual's computer was missing.

Riding across Canada for charity

This summer, students Jason Shim and Kylie Hicklenton will go from Vancouver to St. John's to raise money for bike ambulances in Malawi



Jordan Jocius

ROAD WARRIORS - Biking buddies Jason Shim and Kylie Hicklenton will be riding together on a 6,500 km journey.

ADRIAN MA
News Editor

While most Laurier students aim to spend their summers relaxing, drinking on patios, and making a bit of money before September returns, Jason Shim and Kylie Hicklenton will be fulfilling a life-long ambition to bike across Canada.

Starting in Vancouver on June 27, Shim and Hicklenton will dip the back wheels of their bicycles into the Pacific Ocean and then ride to St. John's Newfoundland - a journey no less than 6,500 km.

Riding alongside Shim on the race track at University Stadium, I ask him what comes to mind when he's confronted with the enormous length of his upcoming journey.

"Oh my God," he says, eyes widening slightly. "I think about it in small chunks."

The ground is wet, sludgy and my front wheel is getting difficult to maneuver. Halfway around the track my legs are burning and my lungs feel like they're being worked over by a Thai kickboxer. I ask Shim how long this track is.

"Probably about 400 metres," Shim replies. "So 15,000 more times around this."

The road from Vancouver to St. John's won't be this safe or certain. Neither of them are particularly experienced bikers or athletes - Jason reveals that the last time he

rode regularly was two years ago, until his bike was pilfered from his garage - but neither consider their lack of athletic ability a reason to shy away from this. Both Shim and Hicklenton have plenty of reasons to be motivated to strap on their helmets.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience; it's not like we're going to have this opportunity outside of school," says Hicklenton, a fourth-year global studies and anthropology student. "The fact that we're doing it for a good cause makes it more important."

One of the main reasons Shim and Hicklenton are embarking on this ride is to raise money for the Canada Africa Partnership (CAP AIDS), an organization that helps spread medical supplies and health education to AIDS-ravaged countries in Africa. Shim and Hicklenton are trying to raise \$50,000 to help CAP AIDS provide new bicycle ambulances in Malawi.

In rural villages, where hospitals can be hours away and access to automobiles and paved roads are limited, bicycle ambulances are a fast and effective way for people in Malawi to transport those needing medical attention. It's a simple contraption - one part bicycle and one part stretcher - but it helps to save lives.

- See **BICYCLE**, page 5

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McGill to support women's only school

Canadian university
affiliates itself with Royal
University in Middle East

VASILIKI KARIGIANNIS
The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP) - McGill University has embarked on a project to help establish a women's university in the Persian Gulf.

The Royal University for Women in Bahrain is the country's first private, women's-only university. It has enlisted the help of McGill renowned Management and Education faculties, hoping their expertise will help the school grow into one of similar quality and prestige.

England's Middlesex University's Design and Computer

Sciences faculty is also an affiliate.

"As a first-of-its-kind university in the region, we will focus on creating dynamic personalities who [will] be assets to the community, contributing to the economy and society in general," RUW's chairman, Mohammed Al Zamil, said.

Bahrain, an archipelago east of Saudi Arabia, has made inroads in recent years in terms of women's rights. Women were finally granted the right to vote and run in elections in 2002.

Education reform has swelled in importance in Bahrain. Since World War I, Bahrain has warmed up to a more Western education model.

Universities and polytechnics were created to offer degrees in the sciences, arts and education, preparing future Bahraini movers and shakers for the real world.

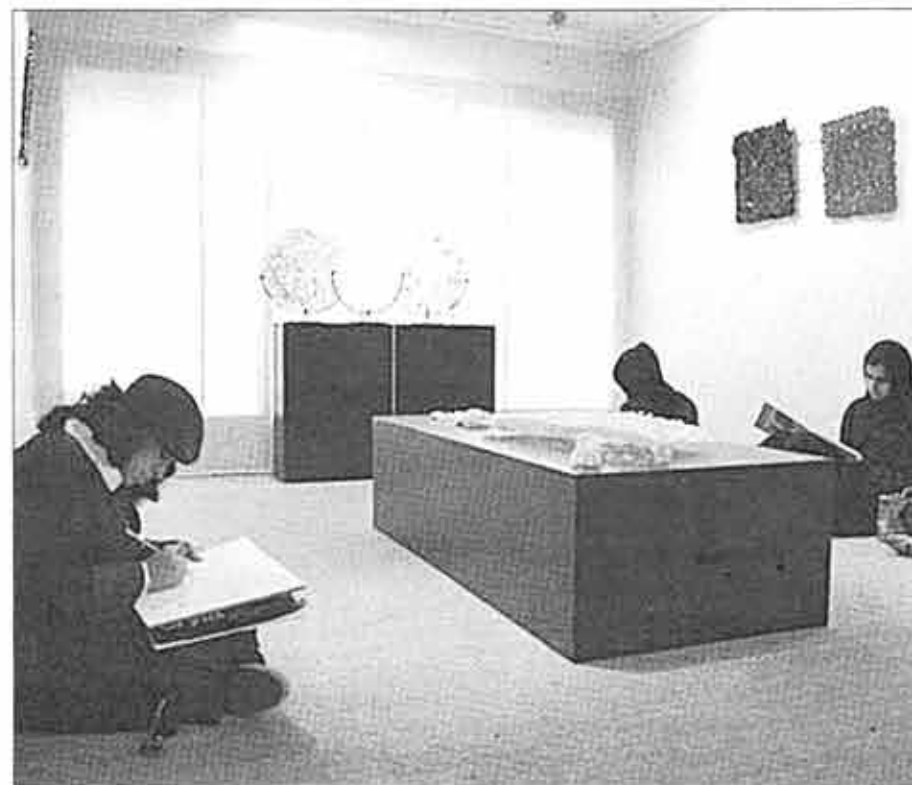
A Bahrain group sought out McGill's assistance in 2002 to help RUW's students excel. McGill

quickly hopped onboard, officially signing an affiliation agreement on November 23, 2003. McGill faculty have collaborated with the university since visiting the school and helping create a curriculum and course outlines for the university's impending Education and Management programs.

RUW officially opened its doors for the 2005/06 school year on October 15, with 1,500 students enrolled. Classes are held in a temporary location in West Riffa while the construction of the campus continues in Riffa.

The 60-acre campus will house classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, a student union building and cutting-edge technologies and equipment - all amenities necessary for a modern educational facility and its students.

Construction is expected to be completed by July, just in time for the 2006-07 semester.



Contributed Photo

WHERE MY GIRLS AT? - Students study art at Royal College in Bahrain.

Laurier students to embark on cross-Canada adventure

- From **BICYCLE**, page 4

This pair of aspiring adventurers have set up a website at bikeacrosscanada.ca, and have raised about \$600 so far. They hope that getting the word out through the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) will help them achieve their fairly lofty goal. WUSC is a network of college

and university students aiming to spread development programs overseas. Since Shim and Hicklenton have announced their fundraising plans, they've been approached by many individuals interested in helping them out.

They've also received tips on cycling.

"I had a random prof from

Laurier come up to me and go, 'Get a seat with a groove in the middle, otherwise you won't be able to feel your balls,'" says Shim, smirking.

Henry Gold, a bicycle enthusiast and expert at long-distance riding, also has some advice for Shim and Hicklenton.

"It's the mental aspects [that are hardest to deal with] ... it's tough,

sitting on your butt, sitting on your butt, but if you motivate yourself you can do it. That's the joy, that's the beauty ... there's a tremendous amount of satisfaction in completing a goal from A to Z."

Gold, 54, is a co-founder of Tour D'Afrique, a company that organizes marathon races in Africa. Gold himself has participated in

the 12,000 km race from Cairo to Capetown, twice. For Gold, there is no bigger thrill in life than finishing such an exhausting, mammoth journey.

"It's a kind of thing that has no words," says Gold. "You enter a totally different level of consciousness when you do something like this. You disconnect from whatever world you're from."

THE CORD WEEKLY

Get pieces for your portfolio! Get volunteer experience!
The Cord is hiring volunteers for 2006-07

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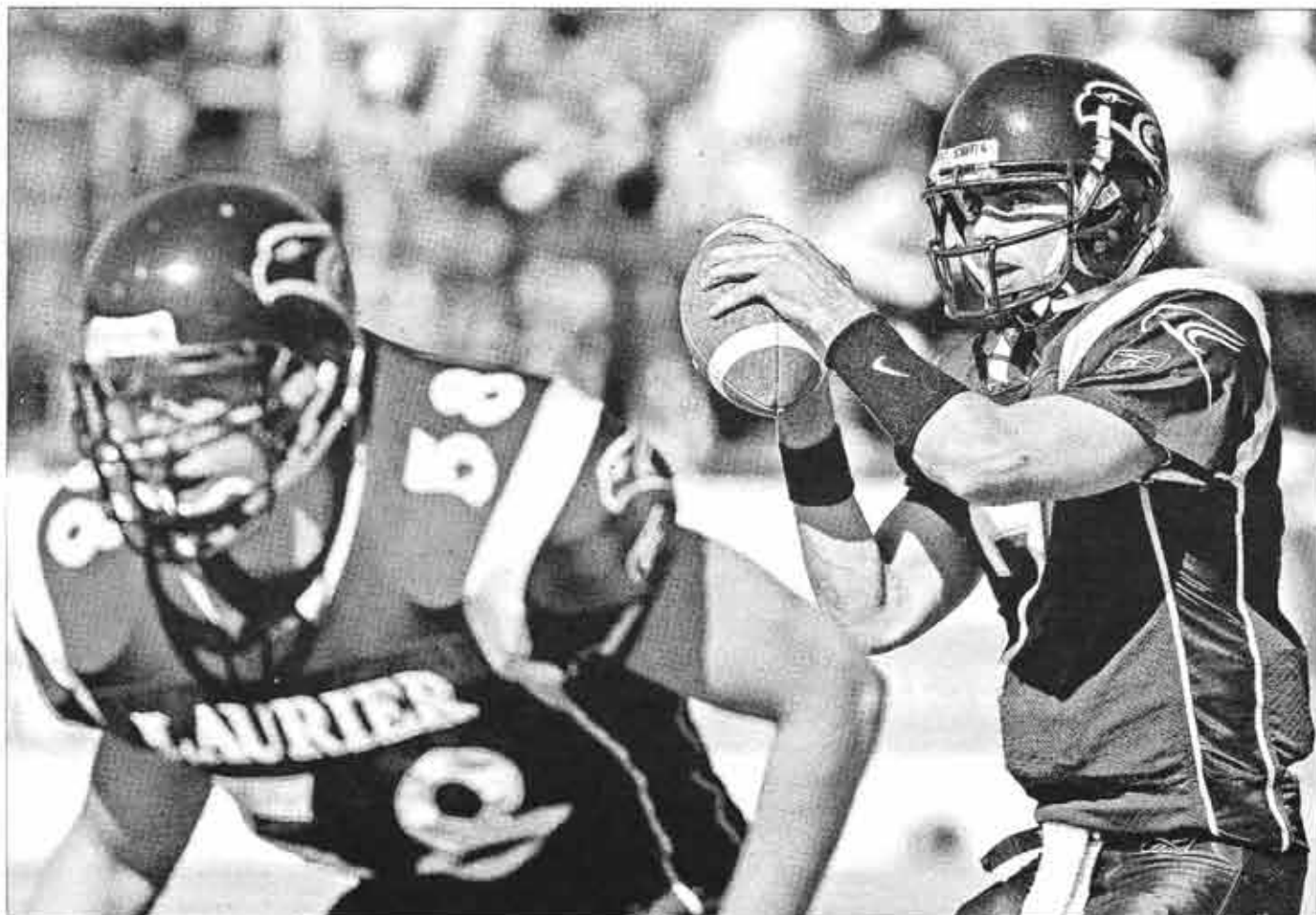
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- * Applications are available at the WLUSP office in the basement of Mac House.
- * Applications due by **April 28** at 12:00 noon in the WLUSP office.
- * No experience necessary
- * Volunteers are needed for the summer and fall (or both)

Email incoming Editor-in-Chief,
April Cunningham, with any inquiries at
acunningham@cordweekly.com

Year of the athlete

At the end of every publishing year, *The Cord's* editorial board sits down to decide how to recap the year that was for Laurier news. For 2005/06, we chose to focus on just 10 of the year's most noteworthy newsmakers, and discovered the overwhelming favourite was our much-publicized varsity athletes, who enjoyed their most successful campaign ever, bringing home the Vanier Cup and three OUA titles.



Stephen Pell



Matt Symes

1. Varsity Athletes

For those who thought school pride was reserved for high school and Icebreakers, Wilfrid Laurier's student athletes had a clear message in 2005/06 as our varsity squads pulled together gutsy performances across the board to give the student populace the collective impetus for throat-damaging hoopla. In the process, they became our top newsmaker for 2005/06.

After a surprise run in 2004 ended with disappointment chez Laval, the Hawks' gridiron warriors rode an unbending will to win all the way to national supremacy, capturing the Vanier Cup in 2005.

Along the way, they dominated

headlines throughout the first term, culminating in an eight-page special issue for the Vanier triumph.

In football's expansive shadow, three other WLU teams brought home provincial banners, including the little-known men's curling rink.

The ladies of lacrosse edged out Queen's on home turf for their third-straight provincial banner.

The women's hockey team survived the loss of some key veterans and also managed the threepeat in an OUA dogfight, eventually bowing out in the national title game.

The list continues.

The men's basketball squad put together a surprise run to qualify for their first appearance at

nationals since 1978, the men's hockey team stunned UQTR to qualify for their first trip over a decade, and the women's basketball and volleyball teams both fell just short of similar feats.

From top to bottom, WLU athletes helped 'the little high school down the street' dwarf the likes of UW, Western and Toronto, if only for a few sweet moments.

Amidst elections ranging from ho-hum to carnivalesque, our peers on ice, courts and turf alike filled the pages of *The Cord Weekly* with thrilling upsets and the hearts of Golden Hawks everywhere with a simple source of pride.

- Mike Brown

2. Student Media

From 'Weinbergate' to the Radio Laurier DJ-firing scandal to general contempt for *The Cord's* editorial decisions, the student media was in the news just as much as it crafted the news this past year, which is why it takes second place in our countdown.

It all began on September 21, 2005 with the publication of the Zack Weinberg's now-infamous "A Gentleman's Guide to Getting Laid at WLU".

The Cord received what had to be a record number of angry letters to the editor (two entire pages worth), posters ridiculing Weinberg were put up around school, a petition for an apology was signed by over 400 students and a "Rally for Respect" was organized to encourage a more hospitable climate on campus for female students.

Hot on the heels of

'Weinbergate', as *Cord* editors began to call it, Radio Laurier and WLUSU were caught in a related scandal two weeks later when it suspended three of their DJs for their on-air conduct toward the two girls that started the petition against the *Cord*.

While the Union refused to release the transcript of the show, *Talkin' Trash*, *The Cord* would go on to publish it on their website.

And just when we thought we'd heard the last of Weinberg, he made news again in January by announcing his candidacy for Student Publications president.

Though he lost by a wide margin, his campaign invigorated the new 'General Meeting' format of the WLUSU electoral system.

-Brandon Currie

3. The Liberal Party



Matt Symes

In a year where they fell from national power and drove up students' tuition across the province, the Liberal Party was our third biggest newsmaker of the year.

With Ontario's McGuinty government recently announcing a 'thawing' of the tuition freeze for all universities and colleges, students have become even more disillusioned with the Grits.

Most frustrating was the fact that little was done in terms of incorporating the thoughts of student organizations (i.e. OUSA) to make the transition easier.

But the road to disillusionment was already well-trodden, with Paul Martin blowing an early lead in the polls to lose January's federal election to Conservative leader Stephen Harper.

The lone bright spot in a disastrous year shone from long-time Liberal Andrew Telegdi, who enjoyed a cake-walk over his opponents in Kitchener-Waterloo to hold onto his seat for a fifth straight term as WLU's MP.

With such a disappointing year, the Liberals have already begun to see the effects of its left-leaning supporters turning their collective gazes towards alternative groups, like the New Democrats, who experienced their highest vote tally and gained 29 seats in the House of Commons.

With the Liberals in the political spotlight, for more bad than good, the shift in political power alone makes the Grits one of the top newsmakers from this past year.

- Dan Polischuk

4. Crime

This year, numerous students at Laurier found themselves affected by break-ins, thefts, and even violence, making for a very sobering number four newsmaker.

Scott Cameron and Robert Hagon were residents in one particular house on Albert St. that was broken into several times, allegedly by their neighbours, members of a grouphome who admitted housing drifters on occasion.

Edna Aryee, a Ghanaian exchange student, had her residence vandalized so many times she had to move in with a Laurier professor.

Two houses around the Spruce St. area also came forward with their burglary stories. Mike Segretto and his roommates lost thousands of dollars in clothes

and electronics, while Cody Rosenberg and her roommates woke up to find their living room trashed and knives missing from their kitchen.

The most heinous burglary happened in mid-October, when Laurier students on Columbia St. were robbed at gunpoint by two masked intruders. The armed robbers forced the students to the ground and made off with \$150 in cash.

Homocide also occurred in Waterloo this year. On September 23, after leaving Rev Nightclub with a group of friends, brothers Soumiyan and Chandrasegar Nagulasigamany were killed after being stuck by an automobile near Dearborn Place.

- Adrian Ma

5. Bands at WLU



Matt Symes

More than most years, Laurier students were treated to a great selection of musical entertainment this past year, our number five newsmaker.

Starting the year off was Finger Eleven, who made sure 'the seething mass of Laurier frosh' were banging their heads with reckless abandon as the headlining musical entertainment of O-week.

Yellowcard played one of the biggest shows of the year at the Turret in mid-September, followed by Bedouin Soundclash in early October.

The crowds failed to flock to Polar Jam in February, a joint festival between UW and WLU, but WLU-favourites Bedouin Soundclash (yes, again) provided an obligatory headliner after The

Salads just embarrassed themselves with their shittiness; meanwhile the best acts were opening bands like Controller.Controller and Tomi Swick.

Kardinal Offishall, along with Laurier Business alumnus Shad and Toronto's Juice, put together a huge hip-hop show that provided the musical highlight to the year for rap fans.

Shad then made a triumphant return in March, performing a stellar charity concert at Wilf's with an entourage of hip hop homies.

With Billy Talent and Sam Roberts still to come this year, it looks like WLUSU has certainly provided for students' entertainment needs over the year.

- Alex Hayter

6. Low-Cost Food

As one of the most popular issues to run on for WLUSU board of directors candidates, the battle for low-cost food options on campus has been all uphill.

In November, the Dining Hall recognized the demand for low-cost food and introduced "The Fab Five" menu, which managed to survive through the year. Though mediocre at best, the \$4.99 daily specials set a precedent for WLUSU and refueled the low-cost food debate.

Low-cost food was also a campaign promise of Dan Robert, but all students have seen is a poorly-publicized Wilf's value menu that mysteriously disappears from tabletops from time to time.

When election time rolled around, both Alan Cayenne and

Dave Alexander ran on presidential platforms that would support broke students, with a food bank and an Economic Aid Team (EAT) respectively. Though Alexander did not win, his EAT was resurrected, as well as promises to provide free meals to students when their stomachs growl and pockets are empty.

Meanwhile, the student-owned Terrace continues to raise prices despite its mandate to be a service to its stakeholders, the students. And the outcome of Robert's election promise has only scratched the surface as far as results go. With tuition fees rising, it remains to be seen how the new BOD will act, "providing for the [hungry] needs of students."

- April Cunningham

7. Student Activism

While not widely known for its progressive student body, this year's crop of Laurier students made news with their campus activism and calls for the formation of a student-funded public interest research group (PIRG), making the cut at number seven on our countdown.

It all began in October, with WLUSU director Dave Alexander's proposed Economic Aid Team (EAT), which would aid students in times of peak financial stress. The initiative ultimately failed, but it seems the seeds for further progressive efforts were sown by Alexander's continued commitment to a more activist Students' Union.

Later in the month, students were surprised to see the campus draped in white for Make Poverty

History Day, a very visible demonstration by a coalition of campus clubs that was widely hailed as a success. About a month later, in late November, Buy Nothing Day was also in the limelight, as a lively debate over its effectiveness took place in the pages of *The Cord*.

Finally, the WLUSU elections were dominated by both the progressive ideas of the two leading presidential candidates, Allan Cayenne and Alexander, as well as the debate over whether WLU needed a PIRG. Except for the election of Alexander, it was a clean sweep for the activists with almost all 'progressive' directors elected and a clear mandate for a PIRG returned by Laurier voters.

- Brandon Currie

8. Renovations

For eliminating any chance of tranquility and costing us a fortune, campus renovations take the eighth spot on our list of the year's top newsmakers.

The mantra might as well have been 'better late than never' for the Students' Union and their renovations of the 24-Hour Lounge and Terrace that occurred early this year.

With the third floor of the Fred Nichols' Campus Centre buzzing with activity the first week of school, students were left to wonder if they would ever get to taste what the revamped food court had to offer. Alas, by the end of September students were enjoying their fresh sushi and smoothies.

In addition to the FNCC facelift, Laurier saw a costly upgrade to the Athletic Complex. Many were left

wondering if \$2.5 million (\$1.25 million from student levies) was worth all the fuss. With the popularity of the gym, it only seemed obvious that Athletics would ride out the success with a makeover of Willison Field, which they announced earlier this term.

While the barren green space is turned into a regulation-sized field for varsity soccer and lacrosse, the Dr. Alvin Woods Building will see a massive upheaval this coming summer, with the structure being gutted to the frame.

The \$12 million reconstruction project is forcing out professors from their offices and will disrupt the peace on campus for an estimated 18 months.

- Dan Polischuk

9. WLUFA

Looming over Laurier during the first few months of 2005/06 was the possibility of a faculty strike. For striking fear in the hearts of all students who wanted to graduate on time, it comes in at number nine on our list.

Months of tense negotiation appeared to be going nowhere as both parties failed to see eye-to-eye on a variety of issues including salaries, workload, and class sizes. A mediator was even brought in to keep the estranged sides from drifting into a strike.

Finally on November 26 2005, Laurier administration and the WLU Faculty Association (WLUFA) reached a new three-year contract agreement. The agreement only needed a simple majority to pass, but received with 94 percent approval from the faculty. The process for this deal was longer than any other between the two sides other than a 15 month bargaining in 1989/90.

"Certainly within any exercise like this you get disagreements and a little animosity every so often, but both sides were at the table professionally, they conducted themselves very well ... I'm relieved that it's over, that we didn't have to go to the nasty [strike]," said Doug Skelton, president of WLUFA.

- Adrian Ma



Dan Polischuk

10. Veterans

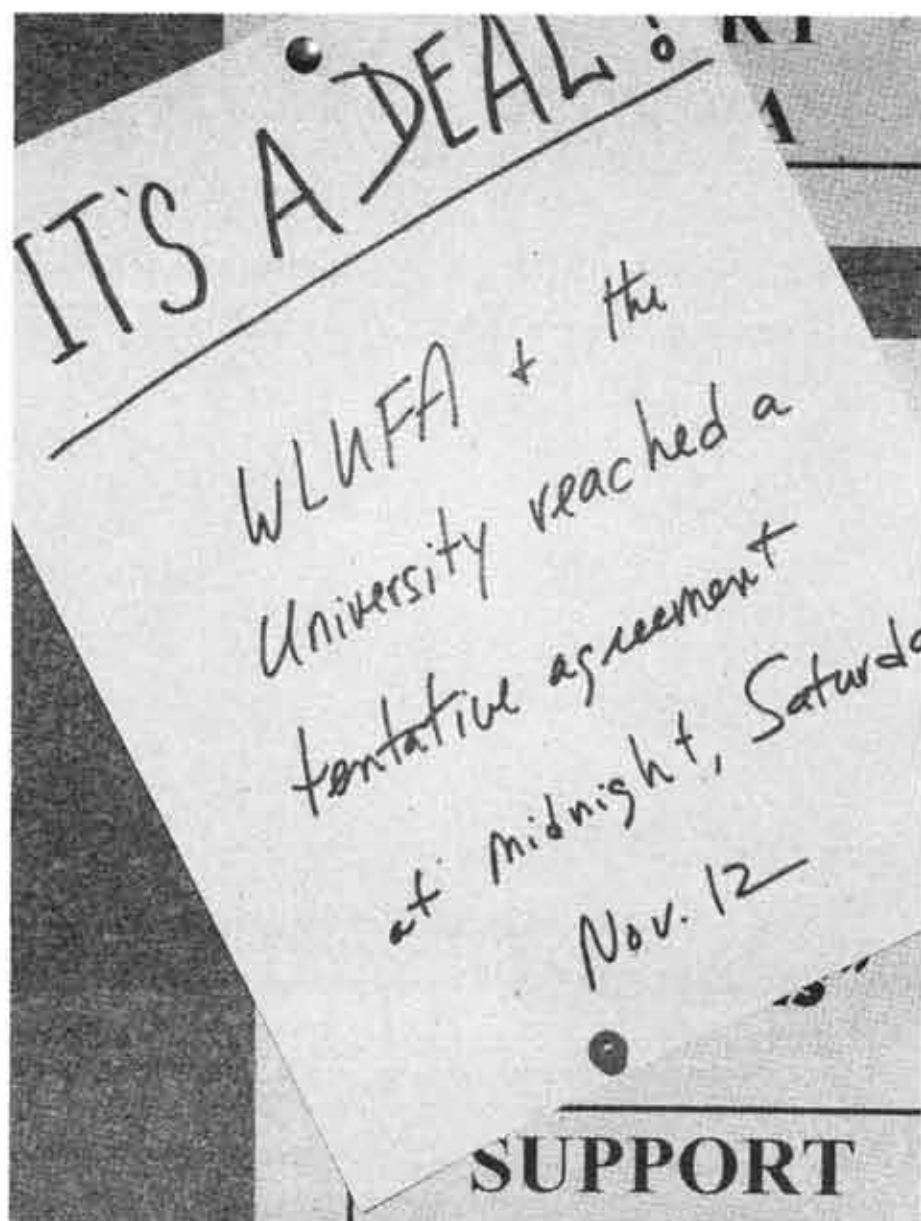
2005 was declared 'Year of the Veteran' by Veterans Affairs Canada, and events at WLU were designed to thank Canadian war veterans for their actions and to actively remember their sacrifices, enough so that they're *The Cord's* number ten newsmaker.

Students from Laurier reached out and worked with the community to create a lasting symbol of remembrance through the creation of Veterans Green. The monument pays tribute to those from the Waterloo community who served in the Second World War, and later returned to help develop the community.

Students also sought to remember the sacrifices made by former students of Waterloo College, through a special Remembrance Day feature. 152 men and women from Waterloo College served in the armed forces, while 11 alumni and students were killed.

Despite these efforts, local residents, like 76-year-old Dorothy McHugh wonder if students today recognize the sacrifices made by soldiers. "A lot of these kids, they don't know what these men went through for them," she said. "A lot of them don't appreciate what these guys at their age went through."

- Kris Cote



Adrian Ma

NOTE-WORTHY - The end of WLUFA negotiations eased students' fears.

THE CORD WEEKLY

— The tie that binds since 1926 —

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Planning WLU's faculty of education

Laurier is laying the groundwork for a new Faculty of Education, projected to open in September 2007.

This new addition to Laurier's offerings definitely has the potential to benefit the school, as it will be one step towards more diversity in its programs. Education programs are very sought-after by students, and having one at Laurier would bring greater visibility to the university. It could also encourage students to come to Laurier for their undergraduate degree, with the intent of staying to do their teaching degree here as well.

All of this doesn't necessarily mean the idea is flawless. The project has yet to be approved. If this doesn't happen by the end of June, the opening of the faculty will be pushed back - which might not be a bad thing.

Rushing the program in its initial stages could compromise its quality, and if resources are going to be funneled into it, it should be done well. The faculty is currently slated to be temporarily housed at the Waterloo District School Board in Kitchener.

It doesn't seem prudent to start a program in one place, only to have to go through a disruptive move later on. The temporary location is quite far from the main campus of a school that is already fracturing with the Faculty of Social Work about to move to Kitchener this summer.

It would make sense to secure a permanent home for the Faculty of Education, closer to Laurier's campus, before it opens its doors.

The proposed Faculty of Education will be good for Laurier, which is lagging in graduate programs and the *Maclean's* rankings. The organizers seem to be on the right track; hopefully, through careful planning Laurier will build a Faculty of Education that will enrich the school, rather than pad it with quickly cobbled-together, less-than-quality extra weight.

A little help, please?

"The Cord ... once again discovered the intricacies of trying to represent Laurier students."

So reads *Cord* Historian Kris Cote's description of the aftermath of *The Cord's* "Gay Escapades" feature; the statement, though, could really be an evaluation of the first 80 years of the publication.

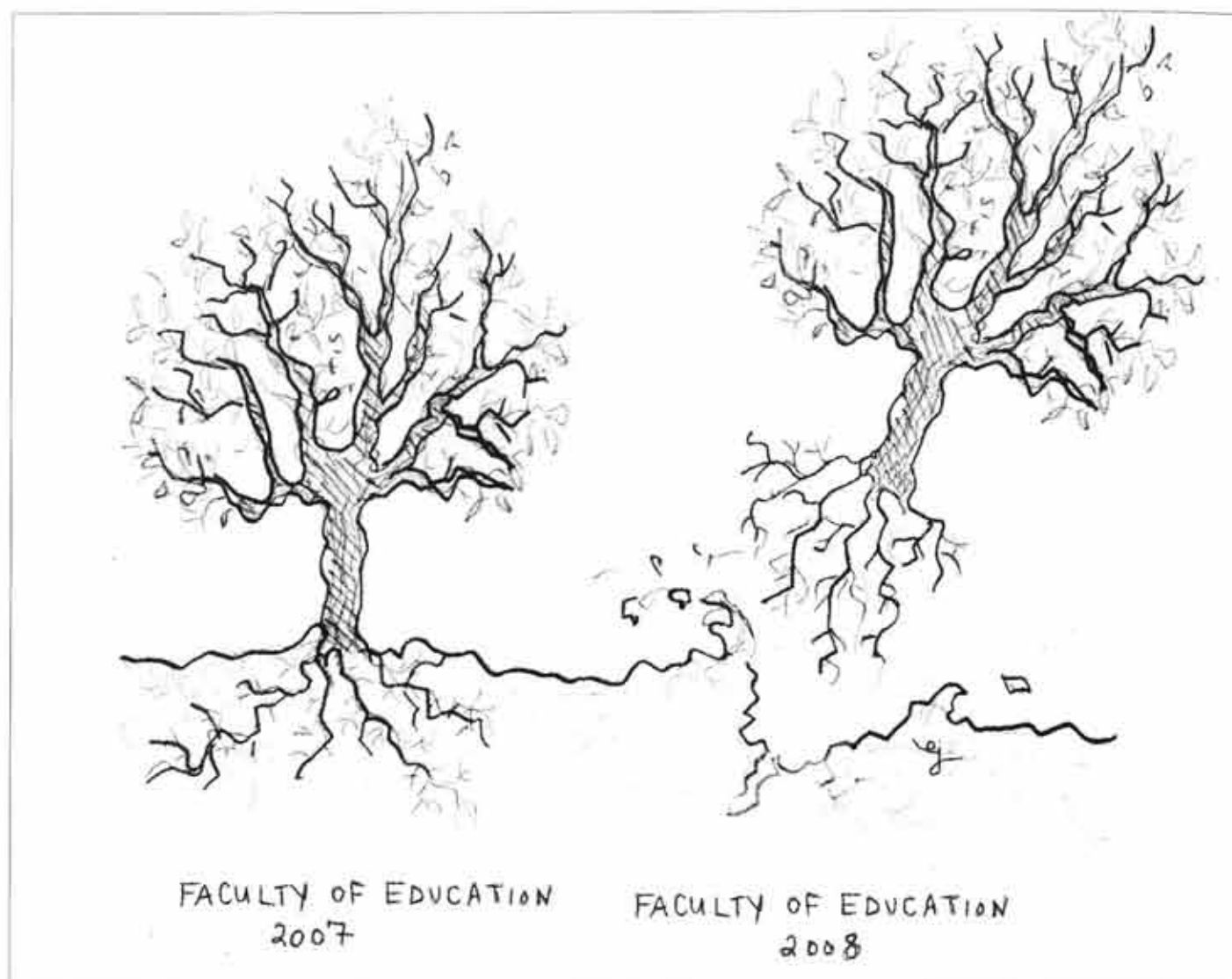
Throughout its history, *The Cord* has set itself up as "The tie that binds" for the Laurier community.

And while it has succeeded much of the time, attempting to unite and represent such a diverse student body has meant that *The Cord* has seen its share of controversy. It's impossible to please everyone all of the time,

and with the rapid growth of Laurier's student body, dissatisfaction with campus media is only bound to increase.

The stage has been set for a new campus publication, it seems. Sure, we have the *Blueprint*, but it falls under the same WLUSP umbrella as *The Cord*, and probably doesn't differ from *The Cord* fundamentally enough for many people.

In order to see all of Laurier's population properly served, a new, distinct and very different newspaper is needed. If you've been disappointed by *The Cord*, this is your chance to do something about it; you could be the one to start shaping the next 80 years of the Laurier story.



Emilie Joslin

Student journalism: officially 'Hot'

And it's up to students to engage their campus media and keep it that way, says **Cord Editor-in-Chief Brandon Currie**



Sitting in Chapters last week, I eagerly flipped through the recently-released *Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities 2006* to see if *The Cord* made WLU's Campus Confidential "What's Hot" list for the year. Turns out we did. Hooray for us.

But as I was about to put the magazine away, content that someone was finally giving us our due for a job well done, I figured I'd flip through the rest of the school "Hot" lists to see how my colleagues fared.

I started with the universities I know have great papers - McGill, Concordia, UBC - and sure enough, they all made it. Fair enough, I thought, we're in pretty good company on this hot list business, and we do it without the help of a journalism, photography or graphic design program on campus.

Still thinking *The Cord* was pretty exceptional, I decided to look through all the rest of the schools' rankings, intent on gloating over all the also-rans. The problem with this, I quickly learned, was that student media, whether print or broadcast, was "Hot" on nearly every campus in the country.

The final results for print media were that out of 52 universities in Canada, 34 have student newspapers that are officially "Hot". And while it was disappointing that the list was more diluted than I had originally envisioned, I'll take the

growing health of the medium over individual plaudits any day.

Now, while I disagree with *Maclean's* decision on a couple of papers - the University of Guelph's *Ontario* was declared "Hot" after their cover story a couple weeks ago was on crosswords - the burgeoning presence of the student media in the Campus Confidential section is made all the more credible because it's selected by students of the respective institutions. The methodology is a little shaky - we don't know how many students, or which ones voted on the list - but it's an encouraging vote of confidence all the same.

Gone are the days of just filling the newspaper and living to write another day.

It's easy to argue that compared to other "Hot" things *Maclean's* listed in the section - longer library hours, nicer classrooms, having an award winning cross-country team - having a vibrant student paper that's relevant to its campus is a no-brainer for any such list.

But why has it taken Canada's national magazine so long to notice just how important the student media is to Canadian university students?

The answer for *The Cord*, which I suspect is true for other good papers too, is that campus provocateurs (student journalists) have gotten a whole lot more professional these days, as have their products.

Gone are the days of just filling

the paper and living to write another day. Today's student journalists (the really good ones, anyway) are asking top officials harder questions, designing award-winning page layouts and travelling to week-long conferences to learn their craft. We're better organized, trained and prepared to handle whatever the news can throw at us, and by most indications, it's working. Circulation is rising along with student numbers at most institutions, and new publications are popping up across the mediascape.

Even still, the success of the student press is, by definition, fleeting. With the turnover that plagues most student organizations from year to year, it's impossible to say how long this run of good form will last.

The one constant, it seems, is that we're roundly criticized by our readers, no matter what the

quality of articles and pictures that make it in the paper. This is a good thing; since we're not under immense pressure from advertisers or

publishers to improve our product, your feedback is one of the few reasons we have to critically evaluate what we do.

And in a media market where your attention is poached by the *Toronto Star*, *The Record*, CBC, CNN, radio, podcasts, blogs and the advent of Internet news, we're listening to what you want more than ever.

It's up to students, not just at Laurier but across Canada, to continue to be engaged by and be critical of their campus media. We're listening, sure, but the onus is on you to speak out. Our future health and relative temperature in *Maclean's* depends on it.

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The future of feminism



RICHARD TOGMAN
Cord Opinion

Feminism has made great strides over the past 100 years in its fight to bring women out of the background of society and place them in the forefront of progress.

The drive for equality and respect has been a long and hard path which is not yet complete.

Women have gained the right to vote, to be employed and to control their own bodies and reproductive functions. However, the final battle goes much deeper as it pertains to the battle over image and respect.

Make-up should be among the final targets of the movement to liberate women.

The cultural practice of coating and layering one's face with animal fats and synthetic chemicals is an abomination as it serves to perpetuate the degradation of women and contain them as mere ornaments to be beautified for the enjoyment of others.

The daily practice of applying dozens of chemicals to a woman's face in the hopes of lengthening lashes, smoothing skin and colouring cheeks is an absurd anachronism which should be banished to the dustbin of historical anomalies, as was the suffocat-

ing corset.

The daily use of make-up is not only damaging to one's skin but is a hazard to a woman's image as an equal member of society.

The mental hegemony under which women currently live, which pressures girls as young as 12 to begin the process of making themselves more appealing to men, is corrupting to the very notion of equality and the distancing of women from the archetype of a tool of pleasure for men.

Women should abandon make-up and pursue an identity and appearance which is not dependant and focused on the attraction of men. Women should embrace their natural features and cease trying to augment their appearances with synthetic products.

The application of make-up reinforces the conception of women as tokens for male adoration and pleasure.

The constant barrage of societal pressures and the many tools of mass marketing have led women to adopt a practice that clouds their true appearance in a haze of products and fictions which they adorn as sources of pride.

Women should strip these masks of fantasy from their faces and simply wear their natural skin with a sense of honour and self-respect. It is simply a matter of socialization that has cast women into the unfortunate position of being pressured to hide behind a

façade and shade their true appearance from the world.

Once the blight of make-up has been stripped from the concept of beauty we can begin to appreciate the natural and true essence of women.

When we accept the superficial flaws and imperfections that exist in each of use we can begin to understand and develop a true respect for the individual underneath the permeable layer of skin.

Make-up just adds a layer of falsehood and lies to the surface of a woman's face as she cannot be accepted in society unless she hides her face behind a mask of artificial products and merchandise. Make-up is neither empowering nor liberating as it instead chains women to the conception of beauty that currently dominates society.

Women should be able to feel good about their appearances without the addition of layers of residue and commercial products to "enhance" their appeal. Make-up only perpetuates the notion that beauty is skin deep and that the main function of women is the attraction of others based on their appearance. Once make-up is tossed aside as the waste that it truly is can we begin to achieve equality and a true respect for each other as individuals.

letters@cordweekly.com

Make the most

Take advantage of your time here, starting ... soon



MARK CIESLUK
Thus Spake the Wiseman

Ah, the end of year recap-review. Could there be a more heartwarmingly asinine tradition?

University is often touted as the "best time of your life," but it seems to me that precious few people are taking full advantage of this opportunity. I don't know about you, but when I look back on my university days, I hope to have something more concrete to reflect upon than my Guinness World Record for most consecutive Thursdays spent watching *The OC* with my roommates.

The real kicker to complaints about how little there is to do on this campus is that there truly are so many opportunities to do something, anything, different from the daily routine. How many of us make use of the free concerts, the free art gallery, the free bus pass? There's a whole city out there to be discovered, if only you would take a Saturday to explore your opportunities.

Far be it from me to drop my cynical and sarcastic nature for even one column this year, but this is a topic which has weighed quite heavily on my mind in recent days. While viewing my current lifestyle and the sum of my experiences to this point at university, the "best time of my life" is not measuring up so well.

Certainly, I've had my share of adventures, both wholesome and otherwise - any man who claims to fully remember their first term of first year is a man who had not yet discovered the inestimable joy associated with purchasing their first keg of Brick beer (followed

closely by their second, third...). And yet there must be room for more, musn't there? Can this be all there is?

Another statement you hear bandied about quite often is that university is a time to grow and mature from a confused youth into a confident adult; a time for a person to decide who they want to be and to strive to become that person. Well, I don't know about you, but this person has still has a lot of things to do and places to go to get where he wants to be.

And what better time than the end of the year to make the sort of empty promises to one's self that are destined to be forgotten? Much like New Year's resolutions, end-of-year goals can easily be forgotten in the avalanche of post-exam revelry and then completely ignored during the summer-long hangover that follows until we stumble back to campus in the fall, one season older, not one bit wiser.

So join with me, Laurier, in taking a moment to pause and gaze inward. Next, puff out your chest and declare unequivocally that next year will be *different*. Assignments will be done on time. Diet will improve. You'll spend fewer hours in front of the TV, exercise more, quit smoking, drink less. You'll become the kind of person who is making full use of the best time of their life. You'll live to your potential. You'll be who you always wanted to be.

Excellent. Dr. Phil would be proud. Now grab a beer and the bong and hurry back to the couch; 24 is starting, and some things in life are just too important to miss. You'll get around to those changes next year. Honest.

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The Strand's cartoon controversy

Whether or not you agree with the content, it's done its job by inciting students to think and react, says Kathryn Flynn



KATHRYN FLYNN
Good Girl Revolution

After the printing of the now-infamous Danish cartoons I was swamped in work and hardly had time to formulate an opinion.

The same week at work I got talking with a customer as I served his table; he discovered I wrote for *The Cord*. He told me that he had lost all respect for the publication after the newspaper's decision to print one of the cartoons.

I was not sure whether he was just vocal or was made comfortable by the fact that I was wearing a cross, which marks me as a person who understands religious sensitivities.

While I've got my own particular frame of reference because of my affiliations, I tend to defend the press' right to print its chosen material... otherwise I'd call for the cancellation of Family Circus. I understand that student journal-

ism can be contentious, among other things, but while it can be highly narcissistic it also has the power to incite important discussions. Unfortunately, not all discussions accomplish a dialogue ... they're too often a diatribe.

I thought that the "issue" of the cartoons had fizzled out until I was reading the *Toronto Star* last week and noticed a letter from an acquaintance.

Nick Ragaz, the Managing Editor of U of T's *The Strand*, was writing to the paper to inform them that they had gone to "personal and professional lengths to try to understand and publish the views of all students" and that to allege *The Strand*'s work has "contributed to intolerance is both false and discourteous."

This letter appeared a month after *The Strand* was embroiled in a media circus after making the decision to print a student-contributed cartoon.

The cartoon was best described by *Blog T.O.*'s editorial board as "one man, whose face was partially obscured, was a hippy sort, with

long hair, a beard, and robes. The other, who was only drawn from behind - obscuring his face entirely - wore a turban and had a Star and Crescent tattoo."

The cartoon was published alongside the newspaper's speculations on freedom of speech, religious tolerance and the appropriate roles of journalists.

What has happened in subsequent weeks is the conflating of the article with all unfortunate events around the University of Toronto campus.

There have been two physical assaults of students on campus, one where a woman was accosted in a bathroom simply for being Muslim and wearing religious headgear and another where group of women were egged on International Women's Day. From these events to the posting of the cartoon on the Muslim Student Association's door and a hit and run of a Muslim youth on campus, *The Strand* has been accused of being partially responsible for the hate crimes on campus.

While perusing the articles on

the issue, it is troublesome to note that *The Varsity*, U of T's other publication, has mentioned the article/cartoon combination in the columns about hate crimes and racism since their publication. They have also chosen to focus on the Muslim community's reaction to the article, quoting that the University of Toronto's Student Administrative Council has charged *The Strand* with "attacking Muslims on campus." Christian groups have not been quoted. *The Varsity* has not offered new insight or healing to the controversy by continuing to blame *The Strand*.

The co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Strand*, Karen Whaley, has perfected the art of official quotes as of late.

When I asked what kernel of knowledge she gained from the experience she said, "People often ask whether I would have made the decision to print the cartoon if I had known what the public reaction would be. Actually, the public reaction convinced me that printing the cartoon was the right thing

to do. We had a ton of feedback, both positive and negative, which means that the issue was obviously timely and of importance. The experience was certainly educational. It's been interesting to watch how other student (and national!) media outlets have reported on the issue: everyone has their own agenda."

Even if I disagree with the content of a cartoon I still support the newspaper's right to print it.

The difficulty in such topics is that faith, to the spiritually inclined, is not about "personal opinion" - it's about the truth.

But whether I choose to believe that the article should have been printed because free will is God-given or because a university paper represents all student views, I still believe that student journalism has the freedom of speech to provoke thoughtful responses from the community.

The Strand succeeded in doing just that.

letters@cordweekly.com

Quick, check our campus vital signs

Students at Laurier are afraid to go outside their comfort zones in terms of politics and activism, says **Production Manager Bryn Boyce**



BYRN BOYCE
Production Manager

At Laurier, we fall over ourselves to join Fashion 'n Motion. The business students have their stock exchange competitions. People join BACCHUS.

But if you talk about organizing a demonstration, people will look at you as though you suggested starting a necrophilia club.

We're an active group of people but with little collective interest in new activity. We don't often attempt to push the boundaries of what's socially acceptable and we shy away from voicing our opinions loudly or in ways which may attract criticism.

Instead, we look for avenues of activism that are generally benign – like raising money for charities.

It's not that these forms of activism are 'less worthy' than protest and debate – but they are more normalized. Their causes have been accepted as 'good' at face value and I suspect that

emboldens people on campus.

But if you talk about attitudes toward gays and lesbians, people seem to clam up. The Israel-Palestine debate? *Faux-pas*. Racism? Meh, maybe sometimes.

If one of the best ways to judge a campus (or a society) is by looking at how minorities are treated and perceived.

The newly-minted Positive Space program at Laurier is beginning to give us a sense of the views that our campus' incoming student hold toward the LGBTTTIQ community.

The results aren't all doom and gloom but they do show some interesting trends across faculties. For instance, Business and Economics students are more socially conservative toward homosexuality than Arts students – particularly males, of which just over 20 percent respond positively and near 50 percent remain undecided. The Conservative Party draws more support from this demographic as well.

In the late 1980s, The Conservative Club was the most visible group on campus and the head of the Young Conservatives

was actually a Laurier student. Even in this era, according to Dr. Steven Brown, the club was largely a social club rather than an activist group. "[Laurier's] never been a really activist campus for the most part," explains Brown, perhaps due to the fact the school draws students from rural central Ontario and suburban GTA.

If you look at how painstakingly long the process to establish a Public Interest Research Group on campus was, you can start to see an anti-activist culture.

After over five years of work, LPIRG came into existence by a mere 41 votes (0.01 percent). This group is non-ideological and reflects the interests of the people who take interest in it, just like any other campus group.

In four years, I've seen this anti-activism in nearly all the major issues that have come up around campus. The war in Iraq was met by lukewarm demonstrations visited upon by the same core group of people numbering in the tens rather than hundreds.

Dr. Herbert Pimlott, a Communications Studies professor interested in media and social

movements, recalls the second class he taught at Laurier on September 12, 2001. A microphone had been set up in the Concourse and Dr. Peter Eglon, a Sociology professor, was speaking. To Pimlott, the body language of the students who passed through the Concourse said it all; they slinked evasively along the walls.

"Students stayed as far away as possible – it is almost as though they were physically scared of a [political] position." Similarly, during the WLUSA work action in 2002, many students – including the Students' Union – refused to take a stance one way or the other.

Our silence on this issue kept that strike going for 50 days – with little compassion for the staff members and their families who lived on much less than they deserved.

Pimlott feels this aversion to controversy is part of a culture of conformity that can be found in our classrooms as well. "I find it very difficult to get many of my students to engage – they don't want to be critical of their peers" perhaps out of politeness, he said.

But what incentive is there to

really take a stand anyway? Lucy Vanderhelm and Sarah Eicholz went on RadioLaurier's *Talkin' Trash* to protest the Zach Weinberg article and were basically ridiculed by a couple of guys. How's that for fostering activism?

And what does it say about our campus when it takes an article stating that Laurier girls are essentially sluts to even notice that the campus' has social and political pulse? Even then, you had to incite a *campus majority*...

Clearly, we don't all need to take to the streets with placards demanding that the blood of the Administration run through the streets: Not at all.

But we should all be aware of the socializing effect that our three or four years at Laurier has on us. In terms of ideas, these are among our most formative years and it would be careless to simply absorb what happens around us without reacting to it.

This place changes you but that doesn't mean you can't push back.

letters@cordweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Dangerous Terms in "Dangerous Times"

I bet no one expected a letter supporting Senator Joseph McCarthy, but yes our shady order still exists, though having moved underground. Call us the ignorant, fascists, O'Reilly's, neoconservatives, or even playa haters. It doesn't matter, as each term is a convenient way of silencing debate on opposing views when liberals are involved. Yes, I've encountered it all, like a series of earned badges, I've enticed the wrath of the temper tantrum far-left fringe I call my friends. Like the scare-mongering McCarthy himself, I see his detractors have learned his ingenious talent for yelling and spewing vague terms at any opposing view. Case in point: how many times has Stephen Harper been called a Republican, Bush-lover, anti-choice or fundamentalist in *The Cord* without any understanding of his stated platform (nicely outlined not in a Montana shack with the Unibomber, but in Montreal last year). No, this is any easy detour and an essential for any self-respecting WTO window breaking, fair-trade drinking, outburst prone, Green disciple. When will the argument be elevated? When will we stop assuming these words fundamentally denote evil and instead discuss concepts not spoon fed to use by Professor's? I bring this up not because I particularly love Mr. McCarthy or the specific article: "Aliens a Metaphor For Human Atrocities," but instead because I feel that this school all too quickly kills debate with these fun buzz words and perhaps a more balanced forum of opinion pages or forum speakers are justifiable.

PS anyone who disagrees is a filthy Communist.

Bryan Hopps

BACCHUS fights back

Suzan – Your opinion piece in March 22's edition of *The Cord* caught me by surprise – for someone so concerned about

BACCHUS this was the first I, as current coordinator, have heard of your distress. Much of your qualifying evidence to support your personal opinions was either inaccurate or out of date and I would like to address those issues.

First and foremost, I will be the first to admit our student mentality on alcohol consumption is far from perfect and that is the reason I chose to spend the past three years dedicated to BACCHUS and its message. Our "pathetic attempts" listed such as the car display in the quad and drawing on the DAWB are not examples from this year. It was my decision to not use the quad display for a variety of reasons, and due to regulations that have been in place for at least the past two years the DAWB writing would be from an Orientation Week at least three-years ago.

What you fail to recognize is the year-long work my dedicated volunteers have put into this year. Besides the numerous campaigns run out of the concourse this year (feel free to look at www.WLUSU.com for the details of each) I am proud to have a team of volunteers who routinely give up their free time for BACCHUS and its message, including spending Friday and Saturday nights at events off-campus such as Charity Ball and Winter Carnival. Until you have stood outside for hours loading buses on a freezing January night do not tell me my volunteers make pathetic attempts to promote the issue of responsible drinking.

I personally find it both odd and appalling that you have decided going for shock value through *The Cord* is an appropriate way to address the issues you would like to see be addressed on this campus. Your club was turned down in the 2004-2005 school year and you have waited until now to make an effort to discuss your concerns with BACCHUS – why not contact last year's coordinator or myself, or better yet apply to be apart of the team to help make the difference you would like to see. Contact info is available on WLUSU.com at all times

and there really is no excuse for you to not be able to get in contact with someone on the team and share your concerns in order to actually see a change occur. Writing an opinion piece will do nothing to change attitudes on this campus; if you truly feel this way about these issues I suggest you use the avenues available to you to actually make a change instead of just talking about it. As incoming Vice-President: Student Services for WLUSU and current BACCHUS coordinator you might think about bringing your issues to me so we can work on them together instead of taking a stance against the one campus committee that speaks to the message you feel so strongly about.

Nicole Gill

OUSA responds

I am writing to clarify the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance's (OUSA) position on tuition fees, and correct factual errors reported in the opinion piece, "Unity lacking on tuition increases," which appeared in the March 22 edition of *The Cord Weekly*. The author presented fair observations regarding the unity of student groups in Ontario and articulated useful suggestions to improve the representation of Ontario post-secondary students, but he unfairly reported OUSA's position on tuition fees, presenting only selective elements of our policy. OUSA's position on tuition fees has important layers of complexity not reported in the piece.

On tuition fees, OUSA has a long-term and sustainable vision for tuition fees in Ontario. Our vision calls upon the government to institute a system of "responsible cost-sharing" by 2011, whereby students would pay no more than 30 percent of university operating costs through tuition fees with the government contributing no less than 70 per cent. (Students in Ontario currently contribute 45 percent of operating costs).

To achieve this vision, OUSA urged

the government to cap tuition increases at the Ontario Consumer Price Index, and continue increasing university operating grants by 6 percent until 2007, followed by increases of 13 percent until the responsible cost sharing goal is met in 2011. Such a scenario would have reduced the proportion of educational costs borne by students to the Canadian average, and government per-student funding levels would have been among the highest in North America.

OUSA's support for an inflationary cap was contingent on the introduction of a robust and flexible financial aid system geared towards improving access, and significantly reducing debt loads carried by the 32 percent of university students who rely on loans to finance their education.

Under our student aid proposals, low and middle-income students would have realized a far greater reduction in net costs than the current freeze provides.

The writer incorrectly states, "OUSA resolved not to organize demonstrations or to work together with CFS." At our recent Spring General Assembly our membership mandated that OUSA approach CFS-O and other non-provincially aligned organizations as well as any other relevant stakeholder groups that represent Ontario students to cooperate in a joint response to the tuition announcement.

Furthermore, it is incorrect to suggest OUSA's position is not supported by our members. This policy was debated at our Fall General Assembly and received overwhelming support. While tuition freeze plebiscites were run on some of our member campuses, they were not supported or administered by our member student unions, and the methodology of the plebiscite exercises has been widely criticized.

Scott Courtice
Executive Director, OUSA

Shame on OUSA

I must say, after reading Mr. Alexander's article on the topic of the recent tuition increase, I found myself disappointed in the fact that OUSA seemed to have lost their backbone in being able to properly represent the student body they claim to be apart of. I for one would like to know how OUSA justifies their reasons for not supporting a continuation of the government's two year tuition freeze. One of my favourite parts of the article was how OUSA claimed to have been "disappointed" and "concerned" with the government's decision in unfreezing the tuition increase. If that's the best they can do in fighting the good fight for us, I can honestly say that the current and future students who are being represented by OUSA have something worry about. Although, I shouldn't be so shocked in OUSA's inability to foresee the repercussions that could come from their lack of enthusiasm to fight the government on this one. Foresight is usually the first to go once you step into the ring of politics.

Once the current students get out of university, pay off the huge debt they will owe the government, who do you think we'll want to vote for in future elections? Who will we blame when September arrives and suddenly we'll feel the guilt in knowing we didn't even try to show concern for our own sake?

Kara Hagedorn

Letter Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12pm Tuesday on disk, or via e-mail at letters@cordweekly.com with the subject heading of "Cord letter." Letters must be typed or easily legible and may not exceed 350 words. The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. Spelling and grammar will be corrected. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part.

The Cord reserves the right not to publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

Dream season for purple and gold

Laurier closes the book on the most successful all-around athletics season in school history



MIKE BROWN
Outgoing Sports Editor

With the men's hockey team's ugly 8-2 loss on Friday evening, it's finally over. Wilfrid Laurier University's 2005/06 athletic season is in the books and, despite its anticlimactic finish, it's been one hell of a ride for anyone associated with the overachieving athletic program.

Sitting in his office the day after returning from Edmonton, Director of Athletics and Recreation Peter Baxter just grins. "This has been a banner year," he says with a nod. Evidently, Mr. Baxter is well-versed in the art of understatement.

The list of achievements is far from modest for the purple and gold over the last eight months. Only three teams in the school had sub-.500 seasons and, outside the women's soccer team, even those were a source of pride. Sure, the men's volleyball team was just 6-14 this year, but that's still more wins than the three previous seasons combined (5-51). Can you say moral victory?

And as for the third offender, the men's basketball squad, well, the sub-par season serves only to make their unexpected post-season run all the more impressive. After limping to a 3-7 start, the men rallied to grab the last playoff spot and knock off nationally-ranked Waterloo and Brock opponents to qualify for their first nationals berth since 1978. Makes it a little harder to consider the season a complete waste, eh?

Even the chronically weak men's volleyball team went 6-14, more wins than their previous three season combined (5-51). Can you say moral victory?

WLU has been beating a path across this fine country, from the women's hockey national finals in the small villa of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, to the men's hockey championships in Edmonton, Alberta.

Our achievements include a Yates Cup repeat, our third straight OUA titles in both women's hockey and lacrosse, and a provincial banner for Bill Francis' men's curling rink. Surely, I needn't remind anyone of that other little piece of hardware the Hawks sunk their talons into in early December. Most of you will probably remember the thrilling 24-23 comeback Vanier Cup win for decades to come.

It all adds up to what Vice President: University Advancement, Arthur Stephen, described as the most successful all-around athletics season in his lengthy Laurier tenure — one that dates back to the early 1970s.

Perhaps even, I dare say, in WLU history.

Indeed, this season has presented this Sports Editor with a unique problem — I've found myself at a loss for fresh superlatives. As a writer, after covering two teams with a combined record of 36-4-1, who finished first and second in the nation respectively, one almost longs to be on the wrong end of a blowout simply to break out adjectives such as "appalling" and "uninspired." The problem (and I use that term loosely)? Even when we did leave our A-game in the locker room, we still seemed to win comfortably.

In light of the overwhelming success of this whirlwind eight-month ride, I can't help but try to pin down just what makes little ol' WLU such a prolific athletic juggernaut.

"I think we've done a good job of investing in good leadership in each of our teams, so we have great coaches," explained Baxter. While certainly true, I don't know that this is all there is to it, though.

The Hawks, regardless of their athletic arena, tend to exemplify selflessness. These are teams in every sense of the word, a group of student-athletes that, when the games are over, are anxious to go off and ... well, spend more time together.

While the Western Mustangs were busy running up scores and securing individual accolades for Hec Creighton winner Andy Fantuz, the Hawks were conservatively fielding third-stringers and keeping their stars healthy and fresh. And Coach Jeff, as he's affectionately known to his players, is hardly the only coach getting such selfless commitment.

Of course, next year doesn't look to be quite the paragon of success that we had a glimpse of in '05-'06. The men's basketball team will undergo massive overhauls as an entire class of recruits bids WLU adieu. The women of the hard-court can expect some growing pains as Meaghan McGrath, the timid engineer of the program's competitiveness over the past four years, looks poised to depart. Even the storied Vanier Cup champs will have doubts to answer with 12 departing fifth-years and the potential to lose fourth-year standouts Jesse Alexander and Joel Wright to the CFL draft.

Despite it all, Baxter predicts more of the same. "You think we were successful this year?" he muses. "These teams are going to go back at it even harder next year."

While I don't share Baxter's conviction that 2006/07 will be without a drop-off, I've learned something in the last year. Never, ever count Laurier out. Though often not the biggest or most skilled, the Hawks have that intangible quality that should scare the shit out of anyone they face.



BREAKAWAY - Hawks forward Matt Grennier looks visibly distraught by his inability to break up this McGill break.

Tough showing for WLU

Hawks leave Alberta empty-handed, get scathing condemnation from local media

DAN POLISCHUK
Incoming Sports Editor

After a double-overtime loss and a blowout defeat, Laurier's men's hockey team were still holding their collective heads high after returning from the CIS national tournament in Edmonton this past weekend.

Opening the tournament on Thursday night, the Hawks suffered their first loss in a nailbiter against the fourth-ranked McGill Redmen by a 4-3 score.

Their second game, an 8-2 loss to the top-ranked team in the nation, the Alberta Golden Bears, was strangely the game in which they left their mark on the tournament.

The city's daily newspaper, the *Edmonton Journal*, slammed WLU in an article published the day after Alberta downed Lakehead 3-2 for the title.

The story, entitled "Laurier hockey team losers in every way" ripped the team for playing dirty, especially in the game against the defending champions.

At one point the article even called Laurier head coach Steve Martell "the zoo keeper" for the "animals" of his team.

Aside from this, the author makes the assertion that "they should all be ashamed ... the players, the coach, the Dean of Athletics."

When questioned about the

story, Martell commented that he, along with the rest of the team, saw the article at the airport before catching their flight back home.

"The way this was written in the paper ... is ludicrous in my mind," said Martell, adding "The instance that he actually talks about suggests that he didn't have a critical understanding of what happened on the ice."

"If [the author] watched the game closely, which I don't figure he did, Luke Girard took a hit from behind from a U of A player. In that same shift, [Girard] hit another player and then the melee started with the individual who hit him from behind into the boards," he said, explaining one of the on-ice situations which was misinterpreted.

Surprisingly though, Martell did not take the article as a slap in the face for himself or his players.

"I took it as a compliment because usually ... the team that [Alberta] plays, quits. We didn't. So I took that as a tremendous compliment for our hockey club. That's the sort of identity we have on our team; we won't quit, regardless of the score," he said.

Aside from disparaging remarks, team members, like captain Rich Colwill, were just happy to enjoy the experience.

"We had a lot of fun and it was a good experience for everyone. I think we took a lot out of it," said

the graduating forward, who plans to pursue a hockey career in the US or Europe.

"I thought it was really beneficial. A lot of guys have seen now what it takes to be one of the top teams in Canada."

Justin Day, the former OHL'er and starting goaltender of the Hawks, shared those sentiments.

"I kinda came here when the team was not quite as successful," explained Day. "It's kinda satisfying to see, just after four years, how we've helped the program grow. I think we're leaving [the team] in pretty good shape right now."

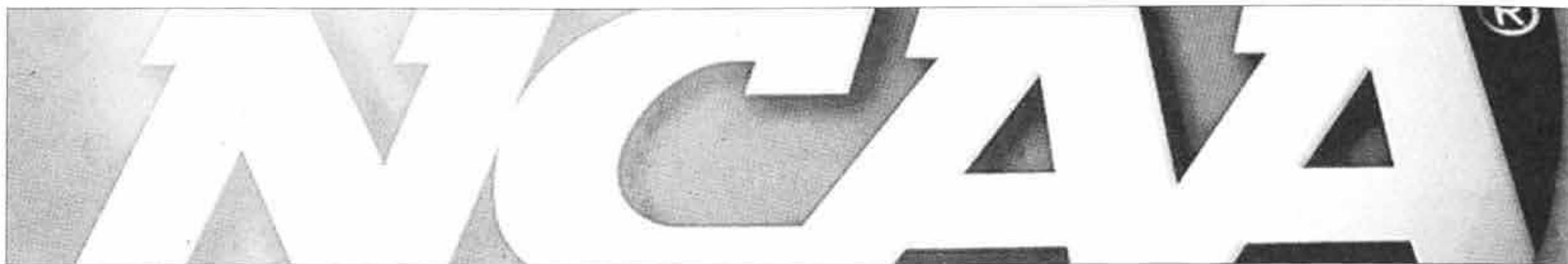
All accolades aside, the team, having utilized ten rookies this past year, is hoping to further develop the hockey program at the school.

Martell, pointing out that the recruiting season will be used to strengthen the defensive corps and the forward positions, believes that the groundwork has been laid for repeats of seasons similar to the past year.

"While we were disappointed with the outcome [at Nationals], I'm extremely proud of my guys for the way they played. We're certainly not satisfied and we're looking to sort of retool for next year."

"I said to the guys back at the beginning of the year, 'We are going back to the National stage.' Our program now is a National contender."

And then there were four ...



DRU LEMESURIER
Hired Gun



MARK D. HOPKINS
Regularly Used Gun



MIKE BROWN
Outgoing Sports Editor



JOE TURCOTTE
Cinderella Supporter

Record: 39-21

Having survived the most difficult path to the final four, George Mason technically has their toughest games behind them. MSU, UNC, UCONN: all victims of the Cinderella squad out of the CAA. So whether it's Florida, UCLA or LSU, Jim Larranaga's boys shouldn't have a problem. Basketball junkies everywhere are hanging on every word George Mason continues to write of this fairy tale story. That said, you can hope all you want, but how many of us still believe in fairy tales? I like a Florida-LSU final with the Tigers coming out on top.

Predictions
LSU over UCLA
Florida over George Mason

LSU over Florida, 76-70

Record: 42-18

Okay, George Mason – I am impressed. You not only knocked off two of the most storied teams in NCAA history in Michigan State and North Carolina, but managed to down my beloved UCONN Huskies. However, I don't think you can – at least I hope you can't – beat Florida. In the other semi-final, LSU's inside game will prove to be too much for UCLA. Gators beat the Tigers in the title match. Don't go doubting me now. Not after all we've been through.

Predictions
LSU defeats UCLA
Florida defeats George Mason

Florida defeats LSU, 74-70

Record: 40-20

Good God, I don't even know anymore. My Final Four: Villanova, UCONN, Texas, Gonzaga. *The Final Four*: Florida, George Mason, LSU, UCLA. Oh. Okay, that works too, I guess. Turns out this George Mason team's for real. After I went against them four consecutive times, I'm taking them to continue their stunning run by dropping the Gators, simply because I'm afraid to go against them again. They'll finally fall when they encounter the tremendous frontline of LSU, after the Tigers dismantle a Bruins squad that is dead set on proving there's nothing free about free throws.

Predictions
George Mason over Florida
LSU over UCLA

LSU over George Mason, 69-63

Record: 35-25

In the year of the upset, it looks like I hitched onto the wrong Cinderella. If only my beloved Shockers had been in the Final Four, things would be so different. But instead, it looks like I'll be in the cellar when this tournament comes to an end. Things haven't exactly been working out thus far, so this week, I took a new approach. I made my picks and then pulled a George Costanza, assumed my every instinct is wrong, and put my money on the exact opposites. I can't really do any worse.

Predictions
Florida over George Mason
LSU over UCLA

LSU over Florida, 83-78

From NCAA to NBA - Rising stocks for draft day



Glen Davis, C, LSU

Saturday's Elite Eight performance by Glen "Big Baby" Davis was a statement game for LSU, but also for the big fella's draft stock. Criticisms of Davis that centered largely around the argument that he would struggle against the taller, more limber bigs were quickly silenced when "Big Baby" made the paint his own personal play-pen. The supposed babysitter, potential #1 pick LaMarcus Aldridge, was outplayed and outworked on both ends of the floor. Meanwhile, Davis utilized uncanny agility for a man of his stature and a delicate touch to shoot a tremendous percentage. Although it remains unclear how well Davis' game will translate to the next level, he has done everything in his power to ensure some consideration somewhere in the first half of the first round.



Joakim Noah, C, Florida

Wow, has Joakim Noah ever made a name for himself in the 2006 version of March Madness. Set aside his game-high 21 points and 15 boards; this Florida big man is the real deal. Noah also has managed to impress with his ability to block shots, run the floor, distribute the basketball, and perhaps most notably, bring his Gators to the Final Four. It's not every day when you see a big man so comfortable doing things that guards are typically asked to do, and his upside is too much to ignore. What's more, the kid is clearly having fun with his time in the limelight. Unlike the uninspired Huskies of Connecticut, Noah and co. play with passion on every play. If Noah plays his cards right, he should be a lock for a lottery pick.



Tyrus Thomas, F, LSU

As good as "Big Baby" Davis is, the Tigers are not a national championship team without the 6'9" game-changing forward lurking behind the 300-pounder. Even when the freshman's not swatting three to five a game, his mere presence makes opponents think twice about attacking the rim. Last week in the win over Texas, Thomas showed an affinity for losing his man on backdoor cuts for easy alley-oops. Bottom line: Thomas is as athletic as they come and any NBA team that's not willing to take a risk on the young gun should reevaluate their scouting strategy. With a big showing this weekend, I wouldn't be surprised to see Thomas in the big show very soon. Who knows? He could even very well find himself in the top three on draft day.



Ryan Hollins, C, UCLA

NBA scouts always drool over size. That's why, with UCLA's Final Four appearance, centre Ryan Hollins looks to receive more than just a passing look. The 7'0" centre has had a solid tournament, averaging 12 points and 6.25 rebounds per game. These numbers might not lead his team, but they are a marked improvement over his regular season stats and Hollins has been a leader on the floor. While Hollins' athletic ability shows that he has the potential to contribute at the pro-level, his lack of strength might hurt him. At only 225 lbs Hollins might have trouble butting heads with the NBA behemoths. But in a league where seven-foot centers are becoming increasingly rare, this tall and talented senior is sure to draw his fair share of attention and could easily slip into the first round – especially if the Bruins keep winning.

Hawks foursome set sights on CFL draft day

JOE TURCOTTE
Sports Writer

At this past weekend's CFL Evaluation Camp, four of Laurier's finest football talents inched one step closer to realizing a dream, as Nick Cameron, Joel Wright, Jesse Alexander and Kyle Weston all did their best to impress the CFL scouts.

"Anyone that has played a sport has probably dreamed about playing professionally," said fifth-year running back Nick Cameron, admitting that he knows the odds may be stacked against him.

The CFL is a small league, after all, and with the uncertainty in Ottawa over the Renegades' ownership situation, no one is certain how many draft spots will be available.

That's what makes a camp like this so crucial for players like offensive lineman Kyle Weston.

Despite a solid season, Weston looks to have some work to do if he wants to make the cut on draft day, as his bench press total and 10-yard split times failed to impress Toronto Argonauts Director of Canadian Scouting, Nick Volpe.

"His lack of size and strength could hurt him," Volpe explained. "There's definitely a lot of bigger guys out there."

Even Cameron, whose decision to defer his draft year looks brilliant in retrospect, isn't sure of his draft status.

As a Canadian player in a skill position, the star running back knows that history isn't behind him. Traditionally, skill positions (such as running backs, wide receivers and quarterbacks) go to American-born players, who benefit from intense training from youth. However, Cameron is not ready to give up just yet.

"I told the teams that I'd play anywhere," he said. "I'd even warm the bench for them if that's what they needed."

And it's just that kind of tough-minded dedication that could see Cameron being drafted late on April 20, according to Volpe.

"He's the type of player someone could pick up in the fifth or sixth round as a special teams guy, and then be given a chance to work his way up."

After witnessing the signing of teammate Ian Logan by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the four players are optimistic about the odds of hearing their names called on draft day.

"It definitely feels like it opens doors and awareness when someone that close gets picked," says Cameron.

Like Cameron, Volpe sees Wright going to a team looking to strengthen their special teams.

"His 40 time was a little bit slow, but it comes down to game performance," explained the Argos' scout. "Wright's game skills speak for themselves. He could make an impact as a special team player."

In fact, Wright's feeling pretty good about the weekend, as his interviews with Western Canadian teams have given him reason for optimism.

"I got to talk to Calgary and Edmonton," the vocal Wright explained. "Seeing how Toronto and Hamilton have a crazy amount of Canadian receivers, it

would be a great opportunity to go out there, if I get drafted."

As far as the Argonauts are concerned, Laurier linebacker Jesse Alexander has made a strong impression with the boatmen, perhaps enough to be a potential third or fourth round draft choice.

"We liked Jesse," Volpe noted. "He's a good kid. We couldn't see him hit in a combine like this, but we know he likes to hit. We interviewed him and really liked what we saw, but he could work on his speed."

With praise like this, Alexander is excited about the possibility of becoming an Argo someday.

"[Toronto's] a great organization with a winning tradition and I think it's awesome that they have been following me for awhile now," a humble Alexander commented. "I had a great interview

with their coaches and I think I impressed them."

Even if things with the Argos don't pan out, Alexander is optimistic that he'll be one of the lucky few whose names are called on draft day.

"I got nothing but compliments from the Argo coaches and the coaches from the other teams," he mused.

With a maximum of 54 draft choices possible this year, depending on the Ottawa situation, chances are that not all four players invited to the Camp will be chosen. However, no matter what happens, they will all have the memories of a Vanier Cup Championship to fall back on. And as the ever-optimistic Cameron notes, "It's an honour enough just to be invited to the camp. Either way, things will work out."



Jamie Stern/Toronto Argonauts

SQUARE OFF - Kyle Weston (left) battles a fellow lineman at the CFL Camp.



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the Cord

V E E K L Y

The
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in
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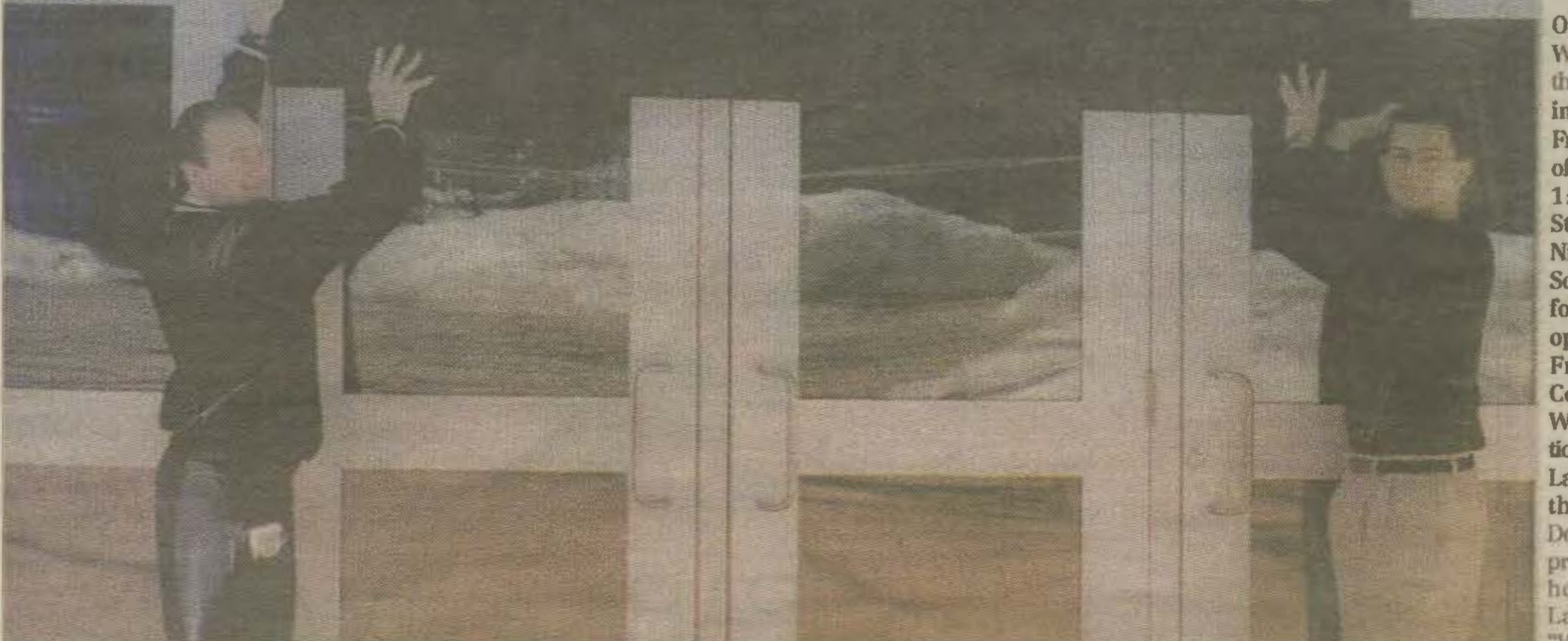
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A sign of the times

NICHOLS CAMPUS CENTRE



THE NAME GAME - In February 1997, the Student Union Building (SUB) was named the Fred Nichols Campus Centre for the second time. Previously, the administration had taken the Union to court, winning the right to name buildings on campus.

The finishing touches: 1996-

While lacking any dramatic changes, *The Cord* focused on improving its content and polishing its appearance throughout its eighth decade. Meanwhile, it faced the challenge of trying to represent more than 10,000 students, and battled with the Student Union and the administration over the purpose of the newspaper.

KRIS COTE
Cord Historian

During its 80-year history, *The Cord* has undergone significant, and ultimately valuable changes in both style and content.

But while the paper of 1926 pales in comparison to today's more polished and professional *Cord*, the general themes and purposes of the newspaper have remained the same.

Carl F. Klinck, the first editor-in-chief of the *College Cord*, wrote on September 23, 1926, that "by means of the *College Cord* we must draw the interest of men and women to our school, draw stu-

dents within her walls, draw students and faculty into closer sympathy and draw the hearts of all together in a common love for Waterloo." 80 years later, *The Cord* continues to act as a unifying force at Laurier.

Yet, while Klinck's *College Cord* represented a closely-knit community of only 50 students in 1926, by its eighth decade, *The Cord Weekly* sought to expound the interests of more than 10,000 students.

A tall task, this led to controversy and crisis. What one group of students found funny, another group found offensive; while some

students complained that *The Cord* was too conservative and complacent, others decried it as being too ideological and preachy.

In the end, however, *The Cord* has remained the most prominent means for students and faculty to express their views to the Laurier community. In this sense, for the past 80 years, *The Cord Weekly* has remained the "tie that binds."

Working out the kinks

In an effort to codify the unique culture that exists at Laurier, the Student Life section was created in the summer of 1996. While 'stu-

dent life' issues had previously been explored in *The Cord*, the new section formalized and promoted the student experience.

As such, topics of employment, food, and dating were pursued while drink recipes have also been a staple of the section.

The International section had been created in the previous decade, but where previously it had been a smaller component of *The Cord*, it evolved into a leading progressive force in the paper.

The focus of the content in the section has changed back-and-forth between highlighting the role of Laurier students in the

world and pursuing a more activist agenda. The latter's content particularly stands out, and in this role, the section raised discussion and debate.

International also served students by giving them an idea of what would take place in future world events. For instance, on February 11 1998, the section warned that the build-up of a greater American military presence in the Middle East would result in a second Iraq War, while later in the year an article profiled terrorism and Osama bin Laden, and warned that he would strike out indiscriminately in the future.

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mes

On Saturday, April 5, WLU students will have the chance to repay retiring Dean of Students, Fred Nichols, for his years of dedicated service. At 1:00 there will be a Student Tribute to Fred Nichols Assembly in the Science Building Atrium, followed at 3:00 by an open house in the new Fred Nichols Campus Centre. In addition to WLU alumni, organizations from every aspect of Laurier life will showing their appreciation to Deano through a series of presentations explaining how he affected their Laurier experience.

Cord Archives

, winning the argument that they alone had the

6-2006

Meanwhile, editors grappled with the newspaper

New technologies also served to shape *The Cord*, and in October 1996, the newspaper launched its own website, *The Electric Cord*.

While the site was created to implement "compelling interactive content," the venture suffered from infrequent updates. The webpage was only updated twice during its initial year, causing it to fall far short of its lofty goals. In the following year, editors promised that the site would receive regular updates, but mention of the website faded away until Student Publications created Club Laurier in 2002.

Still, aging technology and

equipment hampered production. In September 1997, *Cord* staff threatened Student Publications that unless new equipment and software were purchased, they would strike.

In April 1998 the issue of electoral policy was raised in order to sever the final connection between the Students' Union and Student Publications. While the former ran elections for the latter, editors in 1998 argued that Student Publications should demonstrate its autonomy by running its own elections. This was ultimately realized in 2006.

The Cord was also challenged by its most worthy adversary yet, *The Toronto Star*. *The Star*, argued *The Cord*, would take away advertising revenue from Student Publications, and as had been the case at other campuses, would poach student journalists away from campus publications. It was warned that "if students want to continue receiving free, consistently available student publications they must oppose the distribution of major daily newspapers and non-university publications on campus."

While *The Cord* believed that it could use its advertising monopoly to block the overtures made by *The Star*, the administration disagreed.

The fight over the changing nature of Laurier

Laurier had long been touted as a small and intimate school, and *The Cord* had always been proud that students enjoyed close relationships with their professors and were not seen as merely a number. While institutional growth had been decried in the past, rising enrolment rates combined with a corporatization of the university caused *The Cord* and students to become more vocal in their opposition.

The purpose of university, argued a January 15, 1997 editorial, was to acquire knowledge and a better understanding of the world. Unfortunately for students, the small class atmosphere that was more conducive to this goal was being eroded by larger class sizes, the result of premier Mike Harris' "Common Sense Revolution."

Students were upset that classes were often "standing-room only," and a March 2, 2000 Vocal Cord revealed that they overwhelmingly wanted the administration to begin limiting the size of the student body. Previously, an editorial argued that "this small school is getting bigger and bigger ... it's at the breaking point and classrooms can no longer handle the overflow of students."

Moreover, Laurier was suffering from an identity crisis. A September 6, 2001 editorial lamented that while the campus was growing by leaps and bounds, and enrolment was growing rapidly, the administration still believed in the small school identity. This, *The Cord* argued, was tantamount to irresponsible growth.

At issue were also increased corporate ties to the university. The lack of funding had left the university scrambling for alternatives; and while *The Cord* argued against larger class sizes, it also disliked corporate sponsorship.

The Cord, and students, were encouraged in this regard by guest speakers like Naomi Klein and magazines like *Adbusters*. Following a talk by Klein, an editorial argued that "a present-day university is organized like any other corporation: it provides a

service for a fee," rather than promoting knowledge and self-fulfillment. Moreover, *The Cord* promoted increased dialogue with the administration, and asked for student views to be taken into consideration. Students even became more active, protesting a luncheon held by Harris in February 1999.

Merely a marketing tool?

While in earlier years the paper had worked closely with the school's administration to promote an image which would increase enrolment, over time *The Cord* struck a more independent stance and often critiqued the administration, the school and its image. This issue came to a head during the summer of 2000, after the administration refused to mail-out the 'Frosh Edition' of *The Cord* because it did not agree with the content.

The Cord believed that it had the right to strike an independent editorial stance, but what the administration "had wanted, in their own words, was a 'soft-sell marketing tool.'"

The paper argued that it had been ostracized for voicing its opinion, and warned that without *The Cord*, "every article would be about how great Laurier is and how happy everyone is to be here."

While the paper continued to question administrative policy, in future years this was toned-down in 'Frosh Editions,' and there hasn't been a problem since.

Competing visions

In an attempt to appeal to over 10,000 students, *The Cord* often put forth a vision of Laurier, and the paper itself, that proved disagreeable with segments of the student body.

Following the frosh mailer fiasco in the summer of 2000, *The Cord* began to question the value and purpose of Orientation Week.

Frosh were portrayed as sheep and readers interpreted the first September issue as being very negative about the entire Orientation Week experience. A letter to the editor argued that the

Students' Union had been attacked and shamed by the issue, and challenged *The Cord* to write something "positive about an institution that you don't deserve to belong to."

Furthermore, a petition to withdraw *Cord* funding was circulated and signed by 306 students and Student Publications created a *Cord* Review Board to address student complaints.

While *The Cord* argued that freedom of speech gave it the right to voice its opinion, the issue illustrated the competing ideas of what Laurier was between the paper and the Students' Union.

While Union officials argued that their larger size meant that their version of Laurier would prevail, *The Cord* argued that it offered an alternative to the Union's homogenizing force. The issue ultimately revealed that *The Cord* could not represent the interests of all students.

Controversy again erupted in November 2000, following the publication of a joke insert titled *Macks'Em*. While the issue was clearly meant to be a joke, and was designed to illustrate the pervasiveness of sex and sexism on campus and in popular publications, some students found the issue offensive.

The main issue of this controversy was what people found, or did not find, offensive. The joke issue sought to use satire to prove its point, and while some students found it hilarious, arguing that "the 2000 Joke Insert was laugh-out-loud gut-wrenching funny," others found it offensive.

While *The Cord* apologized to those it had offended, it defended itself by arguing that the sexism found on campus was more offensive because it was unseen and not spoken of.

In the following years, joke issues aroused more controversy as *The Cord* continued to learn that what some found hilarious, others found offensive. The issue also revealed the sensitivity of discussing sexual issues.

While *Macks'Em* informed students about "Getting laid at Laurier: Where, when and how to get it on all the time!" a similar

controversy erupted by the publication of a "Gentleman's Guide to Getting Laid at WLU" in fall 2005.

While *The Cord* had long been an advocate for gay rights, the publication of "The Gay Escapades" feature also proved controversial in the fall of 2003.

A number of *Cord* editors went to a gay club, Club Renaissance, in an effort to promote awareness.

A number of students took exception to the feature on the basis that *The Cord* was trying to define queer identity.

While *The Cord* had the best intentions, it once again discovered the intricacies of trying to represent Laurier students.

80 years young

Despite the controversies that have abounded throughout its development, *The Cord* continues to be the "tie that binds" students to Laurier.

A vocal minority has enthusiastically supported *The Cord*, such as former-EIC Ben Harris, who argued that the paper offered the best volunteer experience on campus. At the same time, a vocal minority has often denounced the paper as being unrepresentative, overly critical, too left-wing and too preachy.

However, the majority of students seemed content with *The Cord*. In September 1997 students ranked *The Cord* as the second-most used campus service, while in 2005 students voted to increase funding for the paper.

Thus, *The Cord* does something for everyone. Over the past 80 years, it has embraced, and has been embraced, by students at Wilfrid Laurier University.

It has served as a outlet for student views, sought to promote and improve Laurier, while also serving as a training ground for future writers and journalists.

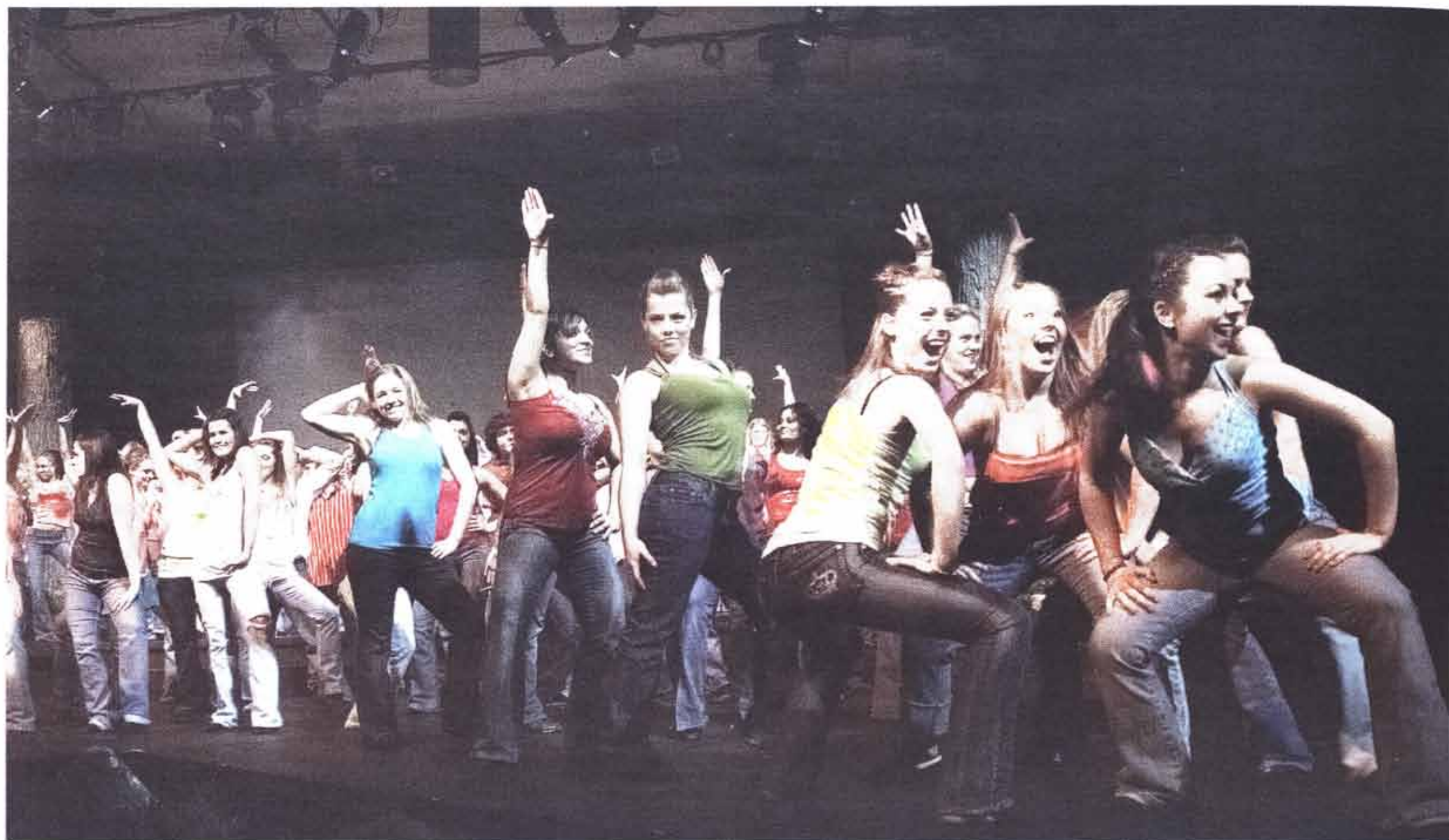
Klinck wrote in 1926 that *The Cord* had the responsibility of overseeing and guiding the development of Laurier.

The paper has fulfilled this mandate over the past 80 years, evolving from a modest bi-weekly newsheet into the professional paper of today.



Cord Archives

THE STUFF OF CONTROVERSY - *The Cord*'s portrayal of Orientation Week upset some students for the contemptuous manner in which it treated frosh and volunteers.



Shane Porter

SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK - The female dancers of this year's Fashion 'n' Motion "Spring Forward" for a sold-out Theatre Auditorium in the show's opening scene.

Students' passion 'n' motion

This past weekend, over 100 volunteers involved in Fashion 'n' Motion put on four unforgettable shows to make one boy's wish come true

MICHELLE PINCHEV
Student Life Editor

This past weekend, approximately 2,650 people were treated to a bit of fashion and 90 minutes of non-stop motion as Fashion 'n' Motion delivered four flawless performances of "Spring Forward, Fall Back."

Moments before the fourth and final performance on Saturday, F'n'M's executive producer Joel Bray's only real complaint with the show was that it was all about to be over.

"I wish there was more to it," said Bray. "It's so satisfying but at the same time I wish we could do it a hundred more times because the more we do it, the better we get and the better it feels."

This year's production of Fashion 'n' Motion was a major success story.

With every kind of dance from tap to tango and the addition of a sophisticated set design, there were subtle changes this year that, as one audience member remarked, "brought it to another level."

In the week leading up to the show, Fashion 'n' Motion volunteers, including around 100 cast members, met every day of the week to practice and any extra time was devoted to helping promote the show, sell tickets or build the stage set in the auditorium.

The set, which added considerably to this year's polished look, included a telephone booth, park bench, lamp-post and a seasonal backdrop that was projected electronically. Purchased from CBC at a very reasonable price, it was made possible through sponsorship by our Dean of Students. A

local nursery also sponsored the cause, contributing trees and other landscaping to the park scene.

Always a charitable endeavor, F'n'M chose the Make-A-Wish Foundation as their cause this year. In the afternoon of their final performance, the F'n'M cast had the privilege of seeing the fruits of their labour.

Matthew, a six-year-old boy from Waterloo County was the Adopt-A-Wish Program recipient. A victim of cerebral palsy and respiratory illness, he attended the Saturday matinee show, giving the cast an opportunity to meet him.

This year's goal was to raise \$6,000 to cover the cost of building Matthew a 'Snoezelen Room', a specially designed room that provides therapeutic controlled multisensory stimulation for people with disabilities.

"It's so satisfying but at the same time I wish we could do it a hundred more times because the more we do it, the better we get and the better it feels."

- Joel Bray, Fashion 'n' Motion executive producer

"That made it all worthwhile," said Curtis Tindale, a member of F'n'M's cast. Previously a UW student, Tindale told us he transferred to Laurier after seeing Fashion 'n' Motion last year.

Tindale described this year's show as being the best one yet. "It's a love story that doesn't end the way you would expect."

Unlike in previous years when dialogue was used, Bray and the executive team told their unique love story entirely through dance and music. The story was subtle, but powerful enough to be told without words.

A carefully chosen selection of music incorporated a style of music for everyone, including upbeat rock classics, hip-hop anthems, dreamy electronica and David Gray's "This Year's Love" as the show's signature tune.

The show also featured tap, stomp, tango, hip-hop and ballet among its many styles of dance.

"I've danced all my life," Fashion 'n' Motion's artistic director Jenna Wilson told us. "Coming to university I had to quit dance, so this is a perfect outlet for people like me." Although many of the cast members had little or no dance experience, it was evident

from several talented performers that some had prior training.

"This has been the most incredible experience of my life," Wilson went on to say about being on the show's executive team. "Whether you're a dancer or not, you learn so much about yourself and gain so much confidence."

This was a common narrative among F'n'M volunteers. Speaking to many of them before the closing performance, it became evident that underneath the central love story of "Spring Forward, Fall Back," were countless true stories about friendship, diversity and the devotion of students.

A far cry from the real fashion shows of our time, the models of Fashion 'n' Motion are volunteers of varying heights, sizes, cultures and ethnic backgrounds; truly a show of diversity in all its forms.

"It's definitely fun because you get people from all walks of life," Tindale said of the diversity in cast-members.

Definitely fun, but not without its sacrifices.

When we asked some of the F'n'M girls what the worst part of doing the show was, there was a unanimous groan about "Sunday mornings!"

Since October, the cast has met every Sunday of the year and practiced morning until night.

"It shows how much commitment we all have to F'n'M because

we do wake up Sunday mornings and go to practice half asleep," said Keziah Myers, a second-year cast member.

"But we know we're all doing it for a good cause, for Matthew and our friends and our family."

Heather Lyons added, "I don't think I would have enjoyed university if I hadn't gotten involved and met so many people," and Kelsey Rose who just transferred to Laurier from the University of Calgary felt that "this in itself made it all worth it."

There was an energy behind the scenes of Fashion 'n' Motion this year that spoke volumes about the passion and commitment the students felt for their cause and each other; it made for an incredible show.



Shane Porter

WHO DAT?! - The guys of F'n'M rap and get pumped for their final show.

Livin' large in Korea

Adventurous students who want to travel and 'live large' should teach English in Korea

MATT SYMES
Cord Student Life

If all goes well, by the end of April you'll have a degree in your hands.

So now what? That piece of paper has left you with a massive debt, a yearning to get away from the rigors of academia, an unwillingness to settle into the first nine to five 12-dollar-per-hour job that comes your way, and a deep desire to see some of the world you read and studied about.

If this sounds like you then a year teaching English in South Korea might offer all the thrills you're looking for while giving you the financial stability to pay off your debts and still enjoy life.

Teaching in Korea is a real job that comes with a real-world paycheck. They are so desperate for English educators that a degree in any subject and an ability to speak English are the only requirements. If you have both of those, schools will pay for your return flight, your rent for the year, and a \$30,000 take-home salary.

While \$30,000 may not sound like a lot, you would have to make close to \$60,000 here to have the same amount of money at the end of the day. After the government gets their share and you pay your rent, car payments, insurance and all the other bills that life entails, what are you left with? Most who have made the venture were easily able to send \$10,000 home while living large. With South Korea as a hub, living large means travel, more travel, and yet more travel.

For the most part you will have three weeks off, unless you score a cushy university position that offers over three months of paid vacation. While I was there, I spent one of those weeks basking in the Thai sun on a remote island. Another week I trekked across Japan, climbed Mount Fuji and walked the hallowed grounds of Hiroshima, where the Atomic Bomb was first dropped.

I also spent a week in Singapore, where East meets West; a true mix of cultures. The travel options were not confined to long international journeys either. Any weekend can be a whole new experience with the myriad of adventures Korea offers. From large festivals to eating at a local restaurant, I treated the whole year as a large vacation. All in all I spent over \$10,000 on travel and that is what I mean by living large and being able to both justify and afford it.

The biggest challenge for most is finding the way to South Korea. There are those who will say you need a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language. While it might be useful, you don't need it.

The next challenge is finding the right job. The best site on the web for jobs in Korea is Dave's ESL Café at www.eslcafe.com. Most of the jobs are posted by recruiters, who are paid well. Recruiting is big business and the competition is



HEART AND SEOUL - Traditional Korean Dancers take part in a performance in front of the National War Museum.

thick. As such, recruiters are only too willing to promise the moon and stars and deliver a kick in the rear. You need to be smart and use your educated head when you are talking to these recruiters. After all, your university education should have taught you critical thinking.

Sometimes it is best to find schools that don't use recruiters. I can't possibly alert you to all the dangers that exist in one small article, but using your own common sense and the forums on Dave's ESL Café should help. Just remember that a contract in their society is worth little more than the paper it is written on, so always insist on talking to the other teachers at the school. Insist on their email address, which

allows them the freedom of responding without the outside pressures of malicious owners.

At the end of the day if it doesn't feel right, don't sign. But remem-

ber the owners of these schools are taking as big a risk as you are, if not bigger, by paying for you to come over and teach at their school.

Any weekend can be a whole new experience with the myriad of adventures Korea offers ... I treated the whole year as a large vacation.

In the end, Korea became a sec-

ond home and an amazing period of my life that I will never forget. I met some of the most amazing people and I still keep in touch with a number of those friends, from all parts of the English-speaking world. The work can be rewarding, though always challenging. The money is great and the costs are low, which allows you to save, travel and spend without many worries.

If it sounds like your type of adventure, start today, look at Dave's ESL and I also invite you to relive this experience through my eyes and words at www.mattsymes.ca

The nibble diet

If you want to lose weight by eating more, then this diet is perfect for you

JENNIFER O'NEILL
Body Break

It's called the "Nibbling Diet," and if you are someone who skips meals during the day then binges at night, this diet is for you. It is not often that the words "eat more" and "lose weight" fall into the same sentence, but this formula could be the key to your weight loss success.

I'm not selling a product, or a diet book. There are no magic pills or secrets. The way to be successful in your weight loss is to eat more and eat more often. The benefits of spreading your energy intake out over the day, as opposed to few large meals (or gorging) have been known to health care workers for years.

While some studies show this has no benefits, there are others that show eating more often during the day can have a favourable impact on your insulin secretion, blood cholesterol values and risk of obesity.

Individuals who follow an eating plan of at least four small meals a day eat less food during the course of a day. This reduces the amount of carbohydrates and sugar entering your bloodstream, resulting in less insulin secretion. In other words, you gain more energy during the day and have better weight control.

While carbohydrates are essential, protein can carry a powerful punch. A little more protein in your diet can go a long way. Protein helps you hang onto the lean muscle tissue that you want to save while losing fat. It also helps to rev up your metabolism, allowing you to burn more calories throughout the day. However, all proteins are not created equal. Choose lean proteins like eggs, chicken or turkey over cheeseburgers and double-bacon classics.

In January of this year, a study in the Journal of American Dietetic Association showed that those who ate breakfast, lunch, dinner and one snack consumed more nutrients. Further, at Tuft University, researchers studied the effects of snack food on college-aged men. The men were tested for cognitive ability after consuming a calorie-rich snack and low-calorie snack. The subject's cognitive performance was significantly better after having an energy-rich snack versus a diet soda. So, while cramming for that test before class, grab something that will give you extra energy. Try packing a peanut butter sandwich in your bag to bring to class.

The key to success is not skipping meals and eating when you're hungry and stopping when you're full. There are many great snacks to throw into your backpack to eat between classes like whole grain crackers and cheese, dried fruit or baby carrots.



FIRING MISSILES - An anti-CPE demonstration turned violent as stones and bottles were thrown at riot police.

Hughes Leglise-Bataille



CLOWNING AROUND? - A group of protestors dressed as clowns, making fun of the CRS (riot police).

Hughes Leglise-Bataille



FIREMAN'S CARRY - Firemen flip a car to extinguish the flames by exposing the underside. At least two other cars were torched as well as part of a building.

Hughes Leglise-Bataille

Employment law enrages students

Union workers and students have been protesting a new employment law that allows students and workers under 26 to be fired without explanation

MADDIE PHILIPS
The McGill Daily

PARIS (CUP) - For nearly three weeks, Paris has been in turmoil. The presence of *Gendarmes* forces, riot gear and the wafting smell of tear gas have become almost normal in the midst of the "grève étudiante" that has gripped the youth of France.

Students from 37 cities and universities in France have congregated in Paris, forming "manifestations" of as many as 1.5 million people, filling the streets, decrying age-based discrimination. High school students have joined as well, and radical participants have occupied classrooms and offices in some of the city's renowned universities.

With banners, signs and megaphones, they prevented all students from accessing the campus leaving university students unsure what would happen in the days to come.

An occasional riot will see tear gas fill the air; people just pull up their scarves and continue on their way, while tourists stop and focus their cameras on the masses

of Converse-clad student-revolutionaries pushing through the streets and stopping traffic.

It began with discontent, when, on January 16, president Chirac and the Assemblée Nationale passed a law that eliminated most job protection for people under 26 years old. Fear of low job security, termination without explanation, and inadequate unemployment benefits left a bitter taste in the mouths of French university students.

The movement was radicalized when the government of prime minister Dominique de Villepin and Chirac took a hard-line stance against the students' complaints. Vocalizing their discontent with the government's failure to represent their needs, students blocked the entrances to the Université de Paris VII - Denis Diderot on February 22.

One could almost hear the Marseillaise chanted among the

protesting students.

With banners, signs and megaphones, they prevented all students from accessing the campus, and classes were then put on hold leaving university students unsure of what would happen in the days to come.

More than three weeks later, students have been unable to attend classes at the Université de Paris campuses and teachers have been unable to hold them - the gates to the central Jussieu campus are barricaded by students blasting music, milling around, and physically preventing teachers and other students from entering.

Their parents seem to be looking on with nostalgic eyes as their sons and daughters participate in their "very first strike."

Exchange students and those disassociated with the cause seem eager to return to classes.

Fears of a complete annulment of the semester for students at Paris VII have spurred a heated debate between members of the extreme-left and extreme-right political factions among the population of Paris.

"I understand their demands; however, it has gone on long enough," commented Kate Lupien, an exchange student from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The situation may grow even more heated in the days to come, with a general strike planned for Tuesday.

More aid lost in Eritrea

Three charities have been asked to leave Eritrea for no apparent reason

TONY FERGUSON
International Editor

The Eritrean government has asked three charities working in the country to leave. The international charities have been ordered out of the country, despite the need for assistance in the area caused by a devastating drought.

Concern Worldwide, Mercy Corps and Acord received the news last week by letters from the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, which gave no explanation for the expulsion.

"The letter just states that we have not met the requirements for an operational permit ... it may be a new regulation," said Angela O'Neill DeGuillo, Concern Worldwide's director for the Horn of Africa. "We're trying diplomatic means and hope it's not an irreversible decision. We're trying to be optimistic," she said.

Another Concern member, Austin Kennan, is mystified by the decision. "For us it was a shock and a surprise - we were not expecting it at all," he explained. The agency staff has always enjoyed a good working relationship with the Eritrean government, he added.

The letters asked the charities to

stop working by February 28, 2007, despite just arriving in their offices on March 20. One of the letters said: "While thanking your organization for the contribution it has made to relief and rehabilitation programmes in Eritrea in the past year, the ministry kindly, officially informs you that the registration certificate is recalled and requests the termination of your activities."

Presidential spokesman Yemane Gebremeskel told *Voice of America* that the letters are part of a government policy designed to regulate NGOs.

Gebremeskel would not explain exactly what regulations Concern Worldwide and the other charities failed to meet, but says that they are designed so that development work can be carried out as efficiently as possible.

"The purpose is very clear: one is efficiency, second is to make sure that the relief ... or development activities are not too fragmented and they make an impact," he said.

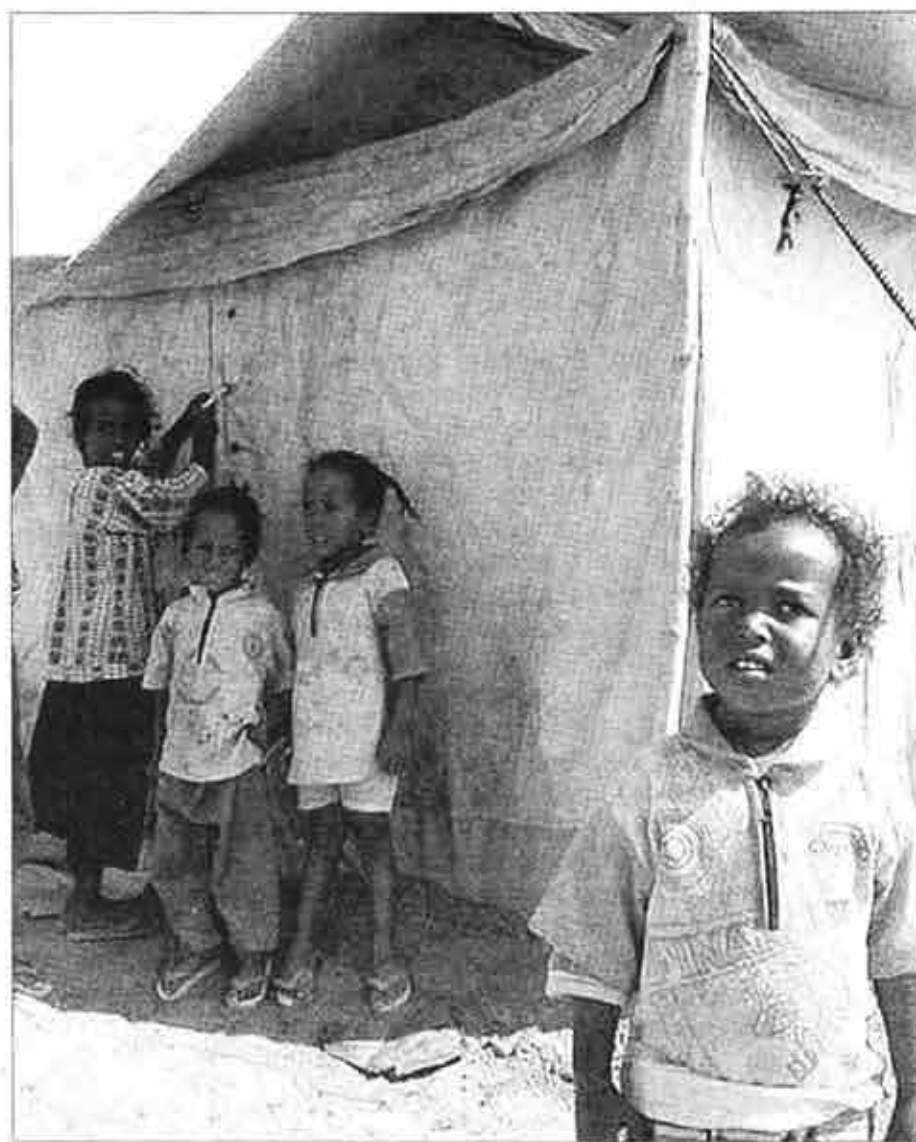
Analysts are suspicious, speculating that this could be an attempt by authorities to push a long-running dispute with Ethiopia over the 1,000 km border back on to the international agenda.

After a 1998-2000 border war, in which 70,000 people were killed, the two countries finally agreed to mark out their common border as ruled by an independent boundary commission.

One analyst, who asked not to be named, told Reuters: "They've realized that a series of implementable, small threats is the most credible way to keep tensions high."

According to some sources quoted in media reports, Eritrea is slowly closing itself off from the rest of the world, while others see the regulations as a misguided attempt for the country to become more self-reliant. Gebremeskel dismisses both of these statements.

Development agencies, who are desperately trying to alleviate the effects of drought and hunger, are getting worried. These most recent aid worker expulsions bring the total of banned charities to eight in the past year.



Contributed Photo

WAITING IN LINE - Eritrean children huddle around a medical tent run by one of the aid agencies working in the country.

Bigotry getting bigger in France

A recent survey shows racist attitudes are on the rise

TOM SPENCE
Cord International

One in three French people are at least "a bit racist" according to new statistics from the National Consultative Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in France.

A survey was distributed that measured tendencies towards racism, indicating a noticeable increase in the social acceptance of its existence.

"Despite the efforts deployed to fight racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, there is still a long way to go," said Joel Thoraval, president of NCHR.

Of the 1,011 people questioned on whether they considered themselves to be racist, one in three responded affirmatively to the statements that they were "somewhat racist" or "a bit racist." The figures were up considerably from the previous year's statistic of one in four.

The survey was conducted shortly after last year's series of riots that took place throughout France that predominantly involved young members of immigrant families. The results have also taken a newfound importance in the wake of a January kidnapping and murder of a young Jewish man in Paris.

The NCHR survey results pointed to socio-economic unease as one of the factors encouraging the rise in the acceptance of racism. The commission stated that the rising acceptance stemmed from a lifting of social taboos on racist inclinations while there was an

important drop in the overall sensitivity to issues pertaining to racism.

When questioned as to whether or not they would report acts of racism to authorities, only 32 percent of respondents stated that they would.

This figure is discouragingly low from the 2004 survey where 50 percent claimed that they would report such acts. In addition, only 39 percent of respondents said that businesses convicted of committing racist acts should be boycotted.

This figure was down from 53 percent from the same 2004 survey.

The survey results have been countered with a surprising drop in the overall number of racist and anti-Semitic racist or violent threats. In 2005, 974 acts were reported, and 1,574 reported in 2004.

While the number of threats dropped, there was an increase in the total number of convictions of racist or anti-Semitic acts in 2005.

The French Justice Minister reported last week that 2005 saw a 43 percent increase, but he later countered this, stating, "Our society as a whole has perhaps not been vigilant enough in the face of racism and anti-Semitism."

The Human Rights Commission also complimented French Police forces in combating racism and anti-Semitism, but qualified their remarks with similar sentiments expressing a desire for greater action in combating and persecuting these acts.

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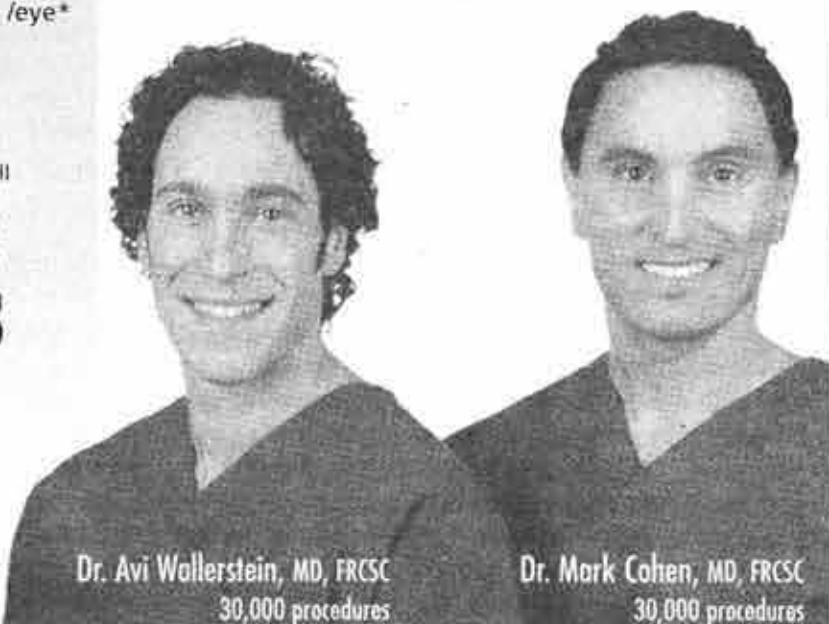
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ON THE OTHER SIDE - A Palestinian helps his grandmother as she walks along the base of the controversial Israeli "separation barrier" on March 26, 2006, just northeast of Jerusalem. Many Palestinians prefer to live under Israeli occupation rather than total separation which may become a reality under acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Kadima party.

Separation anxiety dominates election



DR. JASMIN HABIB
Global Studies Prof

As this article goes to press, Israelis prepare to go to the polls.

But there seems little enthusiasm for this election and little doubt of the outcome: *Kadima* ("Forward" in Hebrew), one of Israel's newest political parties, is projected to win enough seats to lead a coalition government. While its official founder and head of state, Ariel Sharon, lies comatose in hospital, the party's leader and acting prime minister, Ehud Olmert, seems barely able to awaken Israelis from their own deep slumber.

Israeli author Etgar Keret sardonically writes of Olmert: "If, after all the hopes and disappointments, all the accords and intifadas, the best a whole country can wish for is a politician so non-descript that the pundits are still arguing over whether he's on the left or the right - if we want a non-event on Election Day - then we really must be exhausted."

Could the election of Hamas in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem also be attributed to exhaustion with the status quo? A response to the checkpoints, curfews and bypass roads? To economic insecurity, the confiscation of land, political corruption and the violence and militarization of everyday life? Does this fatigue bode well for the future of the people in the region?

Two steps back?

Almost every poll that explores a 'solution' to the current conflict seems to suggest that the only way out of this morass of conflict and violence is partition: let's separate 'us' from 'them.'

When the UN designed its Plan to Partition Palestine in 1947, it ushered in this practice and Israelis and Palestinians have been struggling with the 'design' ever since. Most damaging about such a politic is that it assumes, actually presumes, that Jews and Palestinians, also known as 'non-

Jews' within the Israeli political context, are fundamentally and essentially (read here: racially) different and that they can't possibly be expected to live together.

But if Israeli-Jews and Jews around the world claim that Israel must be both Jewish and democratic, then the politics of partition is a necessity. To 'absorb' non-Jews into its democracy would lead, almost overnight, to a state that is demographically equally non-Jewish and Jewish. Kadima's proposal is to formally separate a demographically Jewish Israel from a demographically non-Jewish Palestinian territory by establishing a unilaterally drawn border between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous zones. Is this a state?

The only difference between the Centre and the Right is on the degree and form of partition. The Israeli Right proposes some form of 'transfer' by physically removing Palestinians from the state of Israel to other Arab countries in the region and/or a redrawing of the boundaries of Israel so as to exclude the demographically-strong Galilee region where a majority of Palestinians live and to include the Israeli-Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Some would argue that Hamas' proposal for an Islamic State in Palestine simply mirrors Israeli rejection of any proposals that suggests equality and co-existence among all of the inhabitants is possible.

One step forward?

These elections have thus moved the politics of partition to the fore. In response, albeit in the minority, activist and scholarly attention has been drawn to the alternative: a binational state that values democratic over demographic politics; a politics of co-existence, defined not by the 'us' and the 'them' but by institutions and practices of recognition. Hope lies in the acknowledgement that the politics of partition have exhausted themselves.

Jasmin Habib is WLU's Global Studies academic advisor and an assistant professor



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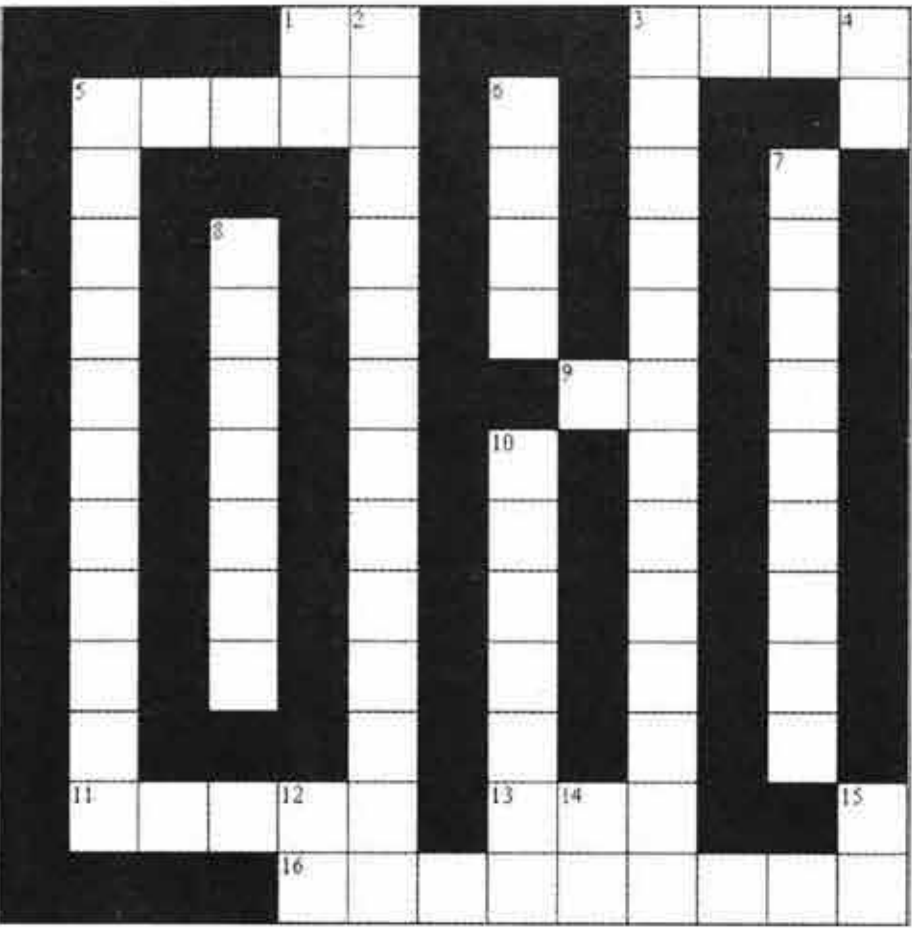
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Xword

by Fraser King



- Across:
- Down:
1. You and I

3. What the do-gooder did of the day he wronged the evil-doer

5. In a state of wonder or amazement

9. Opposed to PM

11. A large, grassy, almost treeless plain

13. Australian bird

16. Urgent chronologic-geographic demand [three words, tough guy]
1. Shania Twain album

2. The gathering of sediment

3. "Root-Like." [very hard, trust me]

4. "___ or don't ___, there is no try" Yoda quotation

5. Relating to an allegory

6. What gangs defend

7. Person who kidnaps

8. What I get in the mail

10. Persian city

12. Not 'yes'

14. ___, myself, and I

15. @

Sydoku

					5			
4			9	2		7		
2				1			8	
		4		6				5
5			3		2	9	4	
	9	1		4			3	
	5		4		1			
		6	8					
				7		4	5	

HOW TO PLAY : Fill in the blank squares so that each row/column and each block of nine includes the numbers 1-9.

WIN SOME CULTURE, YOU SAVAGES!

Successfully complete the Sydoku and bring it down to Angela at the WLUSP offices (basement of Mac House).

Be one of the first to complete the Sydoku puzzle and win one of 2 packages of 2 tickets to the "Original Masterpiece", a K-W Symphony production, Sunday, March 31st at 8pm.

By Pete Cram

Weekly Bad Drawing

Hi, I'm Pete's protege for the Weekly Bad Drawing. I'm taking over next year. He said to come to his office for lessons?

Oh yeah, it's right in there.

Hey Pete... when I'm ready to get started. What's all the candles for?

Just have a seat on the bed there.

How'd it... oh my God! You're sweating bullets... and you look confused?

It happened so fast... we were making beeswax candles in this cauldron and old episodes of Kojak was on. We had a pastrami on rye at one point. Then there was the Al Green... I don't even know!!

Hey, here's your underwear back.

Just wait. I didn't even learn how to do the comics Pete!

oh yeah, just draw with your left hand.



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Last Week's Answers

4	5	6	7	8	3	2	9	1
1	9	8	4	2	6	7	3	5
3	2	7	1	9	5	8	6	4
2	3	9	6	1	8	5	4	7
8	1	4	5	7	9	6	2	3
6	7	5	3	4	2	9	1	8
9	4	3	8	6	7	1	5	2
5	8	2	9	3	1	4	7	6
7	6	1	2	5	4	3	8	9

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PERSONALS

Peter Goc

I have your name but not your email address or phone number. I'm pregnant! Please contact *The Cord* for my information.

On March 17, 2006...

Kevin Glen B**L, President of the Laurier Student Alumni, third year honours Business student, pooped his bed. Not only that, on Wednesday he dressed like a girl.

Grey's Anatomy Addicts

Hey 197 Albert St. roomies! Grey's Anatomy nights rocked; I wanted to share some spoilers... stop reading now if you don't want to know what happens in the season finale! George is bi, McDreamy walks in on Meredith and McSteamy, Addison gets pregnant, Izzie and Denny elope, and Alex hangs himself. Kidding. I swear, don't hurt me. Random pimp of an entertainment website: devotedfansnetwork.com.

Janet

The buck no longer stops here.

For the most amazing, frustrating, inspiring, depressing, joyous, agonizing and ultimately rewarding year of my life, thanks go to all the readers, writers, photographers and production assistants that made this year possible. I'd be remiss not to thank **Angela** for being my surrogate mom and keeping WLUSP in order, **Leo** for delivering my ish every week, **Regan** for his IT genius, **Anthony** for his undying support even in the worst of times and **Fraser** for the extra colour and giving us money all year. But mostly, I owe a serious debt of gratitude to my dear **Ed Board**. None of you quit! Sadly, that's actually the first time in my five years here that everybody has served out their term. I'm sure it's totally unrelated to the \$500. **Bryn**: You've been a loyal post-prod. homie and my best friend on the Ed Board this year, even after what I put you through every Tuesday. Despite all the darts you owe me, I'm deeply indebted to the great work you did for me this year. I'll hit you back, though. **Carly**: You're a great fake sister, a better editor and fabulously magnanimous matriarch. Seriously, I'm really going to miss you and the entertainment I get from discovering what old-people vegetables you eat. **Cote**: I hardly saw you this year, but you were predictably efficient and

worked damn hard to make Cord History happen. Your efforts made this landmark year all the more memorable. **Jordan**: Your talent for photography is surpassed only by your hilarious personality and dedication. We'll always be brother-dawgs, despite our Anglo-European heritage. **Dan**: Thanks for showing us how raw you are this year, both in terms of your raw talent for reporting and in your gratuitous use of the 'p' word. **Adrian**: Your versatility and quality of writing were unrivalled at the paper this year, plus you're trendy as fuck. I like the cut of your jib, even if you're banging my adoptive older sister. **Emilie**: Your artwork changed paradigms, your dedication to the cause was unflinching and your personality lit up the office. I have no idea how I would have made it through the year without you. **Pinchy**: Thank God our Pinko Ed Board had you for a counterweight this year, and I vote you most improved editor for the year, you're section has been on fire this semester. **Big Al**: Props for meeting your deadline more than any other editor and continuing to pleasantly surprise me. I'm looking for a production prodigy next year, you in? **Tonez**: You were my second-best editor at meeting deadline, plus the most irreverently funny dude on the Ed Board. I'm proud to welcome you into the Int'l Editors Alumni Association. **Pril**: I've already said it, but you were the best Spec Proj editor of all-time, 'nuff said. You're a very worthy incumbent EIC and look forward to see what you do with the place next year. **Blair**: Do I have to thank you again? But seriously, great job with Features this year, you nurtured your 'baby' much better than you would a real one. **Syd**: You are the most gracious host I've met in university, period. Your baking and wry humour around the office are irreplaceable, and I hope you're feeling better soon. And finally, **Mike**, you've shown me levels of dedication that I didn't even know existed, in addition to being the humble, 'all-around' nice guy. I want my kids to turn out like you. That's time Laurier, I'm out. - **BC**

This was a wicked ed board and I am so happy that most of you will be returning next year. For those that aren't, Carly, you were my first friend at *The Cord* and I'll miss you, Ollie and your themed parties so much next year, you don't even know. Adrian, you were one of the most promising news volunteers last year and in a short time, you have grown into a confident, professional journalist. Jordan, your dedication to this paper has left its mark and set quite a standard for those following in your footsteps. Cote for showing us our history and for surviving Carly's OK '05 Bryn, for teaching me on my first production night in '03 and for believing in me! Lastly I must thank Cummie although you are returning next year as PPM, because you have taken me under your wing and shown me that I can do it next year. But damn it's gonna be a hard act to follow. I love all you Cordies from years past and present, for those that came before us and those that will come after us. You are what makes this pub what it is. It changes us and embraces us. Once a Cordie, always a Cordie. Love **Mama Pril**

The end is the beginning is the end. There are some people that I have to thank, because they're the reason I've had such an amazing year. Brandon: You made me a better reporter, writer, and I couldn't have had a more talented EIC. Bryn: You're one of the smartest guys I know, but you're certainly not smarmy about that fact, which makes you a man I am proud to be friends with. April: Simply put, I wouldn't be here if you didn't take an interest in me - thank you. Alex: We're getting a big old band together! Live forever, mate! Mike: If anyone could carry the sky on their shoulders like Atlas and still smile, it's you man. Tony: You're one of the funniest and most gracious people I've ever met. Dan: My co-editor, the Ukraine train - I couldn't have gone into the trenches with anyone better. Emilie: You and I have a rather embarrassing love/hate relationship, but I'm a better person for knowing you. Cote: Your writing is awesome and I always looked forward to your section. Blair: You're an amazing fake-girlfriend, and you've got a universe of faith in me - thanks. Pinchy: When you smile, it's electric. Jordo/Sydney: Eternal thanks for your talent and company. Carly: The first article I ever had published was for your section. For this reason and for so many more... they don't love you like I love you. **Chairman Ma**

Good god, I'm not ready for this; I have to write four fabulous years into one tiny little box. It's been amazing and I started this day crying when I realized it's about to be over. I'll remember the ridiculousness the most. I'll never meet another human being like Wilbur McLean. **Cummil!** I'll miss you immensely, little brother, from your cowbell accompaniment to trips to the park (and the valium mural) - and even your making fun of me all the time. **April**: You will do a fabulous job next year. You're too sweet. **Emilie**: When I first met you, I said to Brandon, "I like her because she says rude things." I stand by that; you crack me up. **Dan**: The repore of the news team this year was heartwarming and made for a great section - good work. **Tony**: I will never forget you busting a move with me at the dance party, it was awesome. **Alex**: You took good care of my first baby this year, thanks. **FIGURATIVE** baby, that is. **Mike**: You're hilarious and I liked when you showed up because it meant someone else ate as much as me. **Blair**: You're outrageous and so much fun. I like your moxie. **Pinchy**: If you ever want a record deal, come talk to me, I mean it when I say your songs are amazing and your voice is gorgeous. **Cote**: You carried the Carly's OK crown well. **Boyce**: You're great, and the past four years have been a pleasure. Don't pretend you don't love my dog. **Jordan**: Your pictures have improved *The Cord* so much and the way you make an entrance is unmatched. **Sydney**: I love that you have the same birthday. And the fact that there's pretty much nothing you don't know how to do. **Adrian**: I never would have guessed what would happen that day you walked in here looking to write for me, and I'm so glad it did. You're amazing in every way. None of this is sufficient, but it'll have to do. I'll miss this crazy place Tuesdays will never be the same. **Carly's OK aka The Matriarch**

Oh God, I have to go through this again? Well first off, to Mom and Dad for being pretty awesome parents and encouraging me, supporting me (emotionally and financially) and for just being there whenever I've needed you. **Daryl**, for the inspiration and sisterly advice. To my lovely, talented and all around kick-ass roommates, you've made my year! **Cody** for having the sexiest body and sometimes letting me touch it, **Lynds** for making shit up and claiming it as fact, you'd make an awesome journalist. **Johnny**, because you only buy things you love... you bought me, right? **Dee**, for being my favourite token Conservative Catholic and for being my basement buddy again. **Bre** for being the best best a girl could ask for. **Linds Abbott** for being the sexiest date I've been on in a while. To the Russian for many happy nights. To the **EdBoard**: unfortunately, ya'll know how I feel about all of you, but let's beat the dead horse a bit more. **BC**: Shit son, you've blown my mind this year. This is the best the paper has ever been and we all know it. **Boyce**: Fuck you. I can't believe you're actually leaving me... who will I take out all my pent up rage on? **Carly**: You're so amazing and I can't even express how much I'll miss you. **Adrian**, you make me happier and you will be sorely missed. **JJ** for making me laugh. To the rest, I love you, but you aren't leaving, so fuck the emotions and let's get drunk, OK? - **BAFS**

I feel the undeniable urge to wax nostalgic on my four years of Cord lifestyle - the articles, the controversies and all the inspiring creative people I've met through the ink and newsprint. I still believe that Laurier has no finer, more intelligent people pass through WLUSP. I owe a debt of gratitude to: **Cummie** for his steadfast determination, his thoughtfulness and his friendship particularly in the past two and half years. You're going far son, don't go fucking it up! **Carly Matriarch Beath** for being absolutely OK and taking great care of my baby this year, enjoy Ottawa and all the hair colours that await you. **Angela** I've always thought you have the best (and worst) job at student publications. Bob Dylan told me not to trust people over thirty but I don't think that applies to small, indignant Brits like you. Thank you for everything and I am sorry. **BAFS** for being so feisty and stubborn - you're incorrigible, but I wouldn't have it any other way. **Al** thanks for your independence, it was great not helping you this year. **Brown** my only beef is your authenticity - people can't be that nice. You're taking this paper far, I'm watching. **Pinch** for your diversity - you've surprised me all the way and you've been a great friend, live it up next year. **Tones** for carrying the torch of INT and Gettyn' shit done. Enjoy news! **Joslin** BEAV. Duck. You're hilarious kid - but I'm fiercely jealous of your art skillz. Bitch. **Adrian** best of luck on the freelance man Dan Leafs in six. The Co-op kid comes to fruition! **Pril**, if you're ever in doubt, just do it anyway. Syd and Jord - Win a Pulitzer. Last but not least, **Greg, Brit, Fraz and Erin and the Burnouts** - you've changed my life. And next year I'm changing it back, assholes. Love. **Bryn**.

Last paper bitches!! Thanks Jen O'Neill, DJ Demers, Jash Boros, Laurie Sadowski, Ashley Rose and Emma for writing this year and making me proud to be SL editor! Thanks to my infinitely fabulous roommates **Lianne and Krista** for being like sisters this year. Kris I'll miss you more than words can say... so let's not speak... let's just drink! Patty - thanks for being my best friend and the best support a girl could ask for. *KISS* Being part of the Cord has made this year pretty incredible. I might not always show it, but I really love all of you guys. Brandon, you were an amazing EIC and a wickedawesome leader. Thank you so much for believing in me and encouraging me to apply. You're the reason I came back and I'm soooo glad I did. You not only made the paper gorgeous but you have a way with words that makes me jealous! Carly, when it comes to writing, you're my hero. One day I know I'll see your book in chapters (so make sure you leave me an autograph because you'll be famous!). Oliver - woofwoofarrrrrrgggwoof. Bryn thanks for being funny and smart and genuinely nice to everybody. Good luck with all you do, Adrian, always caring and insightful, thanks for being a sweetheart and a teacher and a friend. Jordan, I just found out today that you're not coming back and I think it SUCKS, but good luck with that. Everyone else I'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR... it's gonna be sweet/crazy!! -**PINCHY**

First off, thanks to all the athletes, coaches and other athletics staff who have made themselves available over the past year. An enormous thank you to the administration of WLUSP, in particular Fraser and Anthony, for helping me realize my vision of traveling with teams. Thanks also to all my co-editors for putting up with my wanderlust and otherwise being a joy to work with. You've literally turned the office into my second home, perverted as that admittedly sounds. I couldn't even begin to tell you all that you've meant to me in such a brief space, so I won't even try. Expect emails when I've actually had more hours of sleep per week than fingers on my hands (and that ain't even double-digits, remember). MAD props to the photographers who made my section compelling when my writing failed to do so. Jordo, Syd, and co. without you, I'm nothing. With you, I'm RJ-approved. Holla. To the copy editing staff, thanks for diligently doing a thankless but crucial job and keeping us from looking like the fools we so often are. To my writers, you were an editor's dream: consistent, reliable, and the envy of my co-editors. Finally, to my family and all my friends who have been partially neglected owing to my commitment to this little paper, thank you for your understanding. I count myself blessed beyond comprehension to have such a mind-boggling support system. From believing in me more than I believe in myself - Dru, I'm looking in your direction, and I'll try to reach that prestigious SI plateau you've set for me - to a sorely decreased drinking presence (B2, I owe you) to constantly chirping me (Hayes) to housing me in my cross-Canada wander-

ings (Randi, Erin, Colin, the Forsyth-Stark household, and especially Kellie), you never cease to amaze me. Lastly, and most importantly, to Josh, for always amusing me and for the recent reminder of what matters most in life. Even in death, you're enriching lives and bringing people together. RIP. - **Brown, Sports no more**

Before I was introduced to the Ed Board I was a lonely, sad JoIt-Bitch. **Adrian**, I can never thank you enough for bringing me to The Cord. You are the definition of altruism. **Pril**, I want to be more like you! You still owe me a line dance! **Alex**, your musical knowledge astounds me - I want to hear more from you and your guitar in the future. **Blair**, stop making me cry! I'm in a lot of pain right now and I'm dragging you down with me next time. **LittleBrandon-FooFoo**, you have put so much of yourself into the paper. That must be why I love it so much. **Bryn**, I'm so happy we're friends! Your appreciation for my work was a main inspiration for me when deciding to specialize in Fine Arts next year. **Carly**, I really look up to you - your creativity, your individuality, and your talents. **Dan**, you're not so pure after all! If I had a little sister I'd want you to marry her. **Jordan**, I hope one day we'll see your photos in National Geographic! **Kris**, I'm jealous of your cats! I have really enjoyed reading your work **Pinchy**, I have always admired you. I hope you will rub off on me next year, hehe. **Mikebrown**, I'm sorry to have deserted you in those English classes. You never cease to amaze me. **Sydney**, you are the most generous person I know. You make me look useless. **Tones**, you are hilarious! Nice hair! **Anthony and Fraser**, you guys have done an amazing job leading Student Pubs. **Holly and Chantal**, I'm sorry that we'll be going our separate ways soon. **Emma**, I look forward to your glorious return! I've had an amazing year. **Thank you all so much. The Cord has changed my life. Watch out for my feminist claws - I'm coming out of the closet! BEAVERS FOREVER! LOVE, Em.**

First of all I have to congratulate all of next year's editors: I couldn't be happier to be friends with the coolest crowd on the planet: you're all great friends. Welcome aboard **Mr Joe Turcotte**, you'll have a fun time with A&E, I know I did. Thanks to **Danny boy** for his Ukrainian-train-like build and efficiency. **Blair**- your baby is mine now, and I will do with it what I please. **Pinch**- we have to listen to some Basement Jaxx together sometime. **Adrian**- our band will rock, but I'll never play guitar as well as you. **Tonezone**- glad you're still around next year too, this is the start of a long and beautiful friendship. **Mike**, you are the man, and the best drunk-en jiggy-ist on the face of earth. **Carly**, we'll all miss you, just stay here, it'll be easier; thanks for getting me involved in this craziness in the first place. **Emilie**- I'm never happier than when my section has your art in it... see you in Features. **Boyce**- enjoy your travels, hope you end up in England next year, the finest country there is. **Brandon**, happy to have your guidance next year, but thanks for giving me the opportunity to make great friends and be involved in this great posse... yakeshe-mash! **Syd**: go see a doctor, then lets show off our Conversees. **Jordan**- go become a famous photographer so I can say I know you. Very importantly, I've got to thank a great writing team for shaping and evolving A&E into the great section its becoming: **Dru**, you've taught me alot more about films than any film class has; **Leo**, one day you will beat me at NBA Street, but not today, nor tomorrow, nor the day after... you're a legend; running out of space, thanks **Jay, Dave, Darryl, Joe, Amanda**, and all the other contributors. See you next year, hope I make it through, -**Big Al**

It all went by so quickly. I remeber sitting at the first ed-board meeting of the 2005-06 Cord year and thinking "Sweet Jesus, how the hell am I going to last for 28 issues?" But I did and I owe a lot of it to the support of all the editors I've had the privilege of working with. Well, not really, I owe a lot if it to myself but I'm still glad and consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with such an awesome group of people, both editors and volunteers. Without my writers, the section would have been one page of content with two other blank ones because there would be no way I could fill an entire section on my own without going insane. Next year, I'll be seeng most of the editors I have gotten to know so well but some won't be returning and I will miss them immensely. Adrian, Carly and Bryn, it's been a pleasure this past year and I wish you the best of luck for next year. As for the rest of you, in the words of Ed Grimley "I couldn't be more excited" to work with you next year. You're all amazing and make my Tuesday nights fun with never a dull moment. I am convinced that next year will be even better. Some of my favoutire memories from this year: Blair's graceful exit from my party, Pinchy's antics at the bowling alley, watching Carly get hit on by a strange man in TO, Brandon's dance party, Brick tours and the debauchery that happened at the last one, the thrilling murder mystery dinner and the retreat at Bryn's. It's been an amazing year and I'm looking forward to the next and to working with my partner in crime Mike Brown. Thanks everyone, you've made it a year to remember! **Zony**

To my copy editors, Cheers to late nights, to meticulous judgement, to plentiful junk food and life stones. I salute your efforts. To all others... to Mike, on behalf of all editors, we thank you for proofing your own work and keeping it imaginative. To Tony, for putting in my last-minute work and making me feel good about it. To Fraser, for giving me that cash to go to TO... an experience I'll carry with me. To Caitlin for company into the wee hours. To Mallory for your energy. To Pinch, for earnest conversation. To Emily, for smiles. To Dan and Adrian for setting me up with interview experience. It's been a slice, guys. We should have taken some pictures. -**A**.

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Albums every student should own (but probably doesn't)

Thought you owned every classic LP known to man? Let **The Cord**'s comprehensive list of neglected gems inform you

ALEX HAYTER

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Badly Drawn Boy
The Hour of the Bewilderbeast (2000)

The great modern low-fi-ist, Damien Gough's first full-length solo album takes repeated listens but will eventually provide a comfort only stuff like this can.

Blur
Parklife (1994)

90s Britpop's essential document, this funny, sad and instantly catchy classic proves that third albums are almost always the most inventive.

Brendan Benson
Lapalco (2002)

The quintessential 'living room'-recorded album, Benson's album is full of powerpop joy-anthems and lovely acoustic musings.

The Coral
The Coral (2002)

The best sea-shantie-styled album to date, bar none. This Liverpool gang crafts masterful concept albums full of quirky classics.

The Cribz
The Cribz (2004)

One of England's untainted gems, they preach hatred of scenesters yet represent the heart of the scene itself. Despite this, they rock, minimalist-style.

Daft Punk
Discovery (2001)

French crazy-boys Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo are considered pioneers of electronic music, and this piece of sonic genius proves exactly why.

Doves
The Last Broadcast (2002)

Before becoming crafters of epic rock beauties, Jimi Goodwin and co. had a dance band called Sub Pop. Thank God they decided to head in a new direction.

Electric Soft Parade
Holes in the Wall (2002)

This extremely neglected LP is jammed full of anthemic indie classics, and is the brainchild of talented siblings Alex and Tom White (no relation to Jack).

Field Music
Field Music (2005)

Simply put: the freshest sound on the planet right now. Listen to them now before everyone else does.

The Futureheads
The Futureheads (2004)

The biggest band to come out of

Sundland since, well, ever. And some of the catchiest and most inventive music out there.

Jeff Buckley
Grace (1997)

Those who like Jeff Buckley, love him. And he only has one studio album, so it's not hard to be a fan of this angel-voiced, model-looks musical genius.

Josh Ritter
Hello Starling (2003)

The most naturally gifted alt-country troubadour in years, Ritter's third LP perfects his feel-

good style.

Manic Street Preachers
The Holy Bible (1994)

A concept album of nightmarish content, this LP's release was followed by the disappearance of visionary/lyricist Richie Edwards. This goth-rock classic lets you understand the tormented man's condition.

The Sleepy Jackson
Lovers (2003)

Australia's finest export since Fosters, Luck Steele's band of bliss-pop cronies crafted one of the

most absorbing records one could come across.

The Screaming Trees
Dust (1996)

Queens of the Stone Age's Mark Lanegan had his own band in the nineties; their best and last offering provides the perfect document of grunge-pop.

Nick Drake
Five Leaves Left (1969)

A guitar-picking virtuoso with a lush, autumnal sound, this classic documents the singer's peak of optimism, before falling into

depression.

Muse
Origin of Symmetry (2001)

Half Radiohead, half Jeff Buckley, and with prog influences, Muse's second album is an epic rock masterpiece.

Pixies
Come on Pilgrim (1987)

Kurt Cobain stole their sound. But here it is for you: the Pixies's first EP, captured at the height of both their wackiness and rawness.

Primal Scream
Screamadelica (1991)

The album that laid the foundations for dance-rock, and before that, house music. Recorded entirely on drugs.

Public Enemy
It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back (1995)

An early prototype for gangsta rap as it is today, minus the guns and hoes, plus superior rhymes and hooks. Chuck D is the best rapper of all time.

Ryan Adams
Rock N Roll (2003)

Thought alt-country simulacra was all this guy does? Adams does his take on modern rock here, revising the dictionary for the bands that followed.

The Smiths
The Queen is Dead (1986)

Representing the less mainstream side of New Romantic pop, this one is held in high esteem across the pond. Lead singer Morrissey has 'issues' with Canada, recently refusing to set foot on our soil due to a seal-bashing protest. Way to go Morrissey.

Supergrass
In It For the Money (1997)

As British as rock bands go, Supergrass' second LP sees these fuzz-rockers at the peak of their sound.

Television
Marquee Moon (1977)

The founding album of every modern art-rocker band known to man.

Terrorvision
Regular Urban Survivors (1997)

Surreal pop or metallic madness? Who cares about labels, this is awesome.

The Vines
Highly Evolved (2002)

It might be totally cliched mainstream rock, but this is Aussie gem understands pop-music design to perfection.



Welcome back MTV, we didn't miss you

MTV is back on the Canadian airwaves. So what?



JOE TURCOTTE
Cord A&E

With the summer holidays just around the corner, things are starting to heat up in the Canadian entertainment television scene.

Last Tuesday marked the return of MTV to Canadian TV sets. The return of America's premier purveyor of pop-culture ensures that shows like *The Real World* and *Laguna Beach: The Real OC* now have a home north of the border. It also means that the MuchMusic monopoly is being threatened.

Ironically, the one thing that MTV has failed to bring with them is music videos. After taking over

the regulatory license of the defunct TalkTV, the CRTC has decreed that MTV must maintain an 'all-talk' format. While this means that viewers will be spared the endless parade of Ashlee Simpson and Ashley Parker Angel videos, it also means that MTV has had to stretch to create the Canadian content necessary to satisfy the CRTC bigwigs.

Maybe this is why the hosts and on-air personalities seem so rigid, lame, and out of their element(s). Sometimes, while watching the flagship MTVLive, it feels that the hosts were plucked off the streets of Toronto, thrown together, given a hair-cut and told to go for it.

But of course, with anything new there's bound to be some growing pains. Seeing how the network has only been on the air for nine days, the hosts should get a pass.

However, if after a few months they still haven't found their feet, I myself might have to march down to Yonge Street and try to get things in order.

While the hosts may get a pass, what can't be forgiven is the cheap production value and annoyingly condescending subject matter.

The sets, layouts, and skits that make up the Can-Con portion of MTV Canada pale in comparison to the flash that the American-produced shows offer. Maybe the MTV braintrust feels that they can slap their little logo on anything and pass it off to the hapless Canadian public.

Or maybe the segments have been hastily arranged and only need some time to sort themselves out.

Either way, it's painful at times to sit through the meandering found on MTVLive. While the network seems to be trying to be political and relevant, having debates about the merits of smok-

ing and even inviting Jack Layton onto the air, the momentum gained by these moves can never be sustained long enough to make a lasting impact.

But maybe that's a good thing, maybe we really don't want MTV doing Canada better than Canadian-owned networks can.

In the end MTV Canada should be a blessing for the Canadian entertainment industry.

Maybe now all this extra competition will shake things up at Much, and force 'Our Nation's Music Station' to stop throwing together cheap and uninteresting programs.

Or maybe MTV Canada will mature and leave a positive mark on Canadian culture, by providing quality Canadian produced and oriented programming.

For now, the jury's still out.

Public Enemy: still bringing the noise



Public Enemy feat. Paris



3.5 out of a possible 5 Flavor Flav's clocks

Title: Rebirth of a Nation

Release Date: March 7, 2006

Label: Guerilla Funk Recordings

single, "Can't Hold Us Back", is succinct and powerful. The lyrics dripping with antagonism: "I tried to be nice, now we gon' have to bleed 'em/I'm willing to do a killin' for the price of freedom". With guest appearances by Kam, Paris, and dead prez, "Can't Hold Us Back" sounds like an '06 version of "Fight the Power".

While "They Call Me Flavor" won't make anyone forget "9/11 is a Joke", it sure doesn't make anyone want to skip tracks either. Here Flav' is in rare form, providing his flair for twisting words and mangling the English language—hell, only he and the ODB could get away with this kind of stuff: "I get lucky boy/When you eat a beef jerky boy/Soy sauce is soy, boy/I did a tour with Roy boy, what???" What, indeed.

On "Plastic Nation" Chuck takes aim at Western society's obsession with cosmetic surgery, noting that a face-lift or lipo won't make your

problems go away. The sampling of Nip/Tuck's credo, "tell me what you don't like about yourself," is pure genius and reminds how much of a role the media plays in our obsessions.

Of course, with every Public Enemy album there are bound to be problems. While many of the guest appearances, like dead prez and MC Ren, seem natural, there are times when too many voices can ruin a song. On the sixteenth and final track, the group effort of "Field Ngga Boogie (XLR8R remix)", things seem a little bit tired and forced.

Perhaps *Rebirth's* finest moments come when Chuck D lets loose and speaks his mind—but isn't that what's always made Public Enemy great? It just all seems a little strange that it took a concept album, written by another MC for Chuck D to get his bearings back. But hell, whatever works.

JOE TURCOTTE
Cord A&E

Admittedly, when Chuck D said Public Enemy was going to do a concept album, I was scared. My apprehension only increased when I found out Chuck wouldn't be writing many of the songs himself. Thoughts of Flavor Flav running the show ensured that I didn't sleep for days.

However, all the elements are here: politics, power, Chuck, Flavor, Griff, aggression and Bush bashing. And things don't feel all that different. Maybe that's because the concept really wasn't that crazy after all.

Sure, having the Guerilla Funk mastermind Paris write most of the album's lyrics while producing all of the tracks was dangerous. But after the release of last year's *New Whirl Odor*, danger was necessary. And danger has paid off.

Rebirth reminds the listener of the glory days of PE, the days before VH1's *Strange Love* and the *Surreal World* brought Flav's sanity into question. The album's first

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Welcome to the JD Era

Another Laurier rapper is trying to make a name for himself as an up-and-coming MC

LEO YU
Hip Hop Correspondent

This past Monday, the Turret wasn't closed as per usual, but did play host to the *Black Market Mixtape Vol. 2* Release Party.

The event was hosted by Laurier's own JD Era & Tripl-B with special guests Bishop Brigante, Jonny Rox and Rich London. The collection of rappers hailed from Brampton and Scarborough.

Rox was first to hit the stage, and immediately got the crowd going by giving away "Free shit", which included promotional CDs and T-shirts.

Donning a "I Hustle Hard" t-shirt and dark sunglasses, Rox performed a short 15-minute set.

Some memorable moments included his performance of his latest single "I'm A RoxxStarr" and a racy grind session with a possibly group-affiliated girl in the middle of his performance. Overall, his stage presence and subject matter resembles Young Jeezy, with less drug talk and ad-libs.

From Jonny Rox's exit entered Bishop Brigante. For those who follow the Toronto underground scene, Bishop, aka The Gambling Man, shouldn't be a stranger to you. For others, you might've seen him battle Jin (The Emcee) for the third time at The Government in

Toronto back in November of 2005 or recognized him from Ray Liotta's *Narc*.

The veteran MC attracted his audience to the front of the stage by comically stating "Everyone that doesn't have STD's please come to the front of the stage."

Most of the audience reluctantly complied with Bishop demands, as he went into a 20-minute set.

With emphasis on hustling, making money and getting hoes, the special guests seemed a little out of place.

Bishop's memorable moment came in the form of a "Dance Contest", as Bishop asked several girls to compete for the best dancer honour.

But the dance contest was quickly devolved into a raunchy affair, as the girl that could shake her ass the best was crowned the ultimate 'winner'.

After Bishop's dubious performance, the crowd was introduced to Rich London.

Born Richard Davidson, this veteran MC carries on his dead uncle's legacy by utilizing his name as a rap pseudonym.

Wearing a Bob Marley shirt proudly, London had his 20 min-

utes of fame on stage, performing the best material of the night up to that point. His performance of his latest single, "Let's Chill", got me excited for the first time that night.

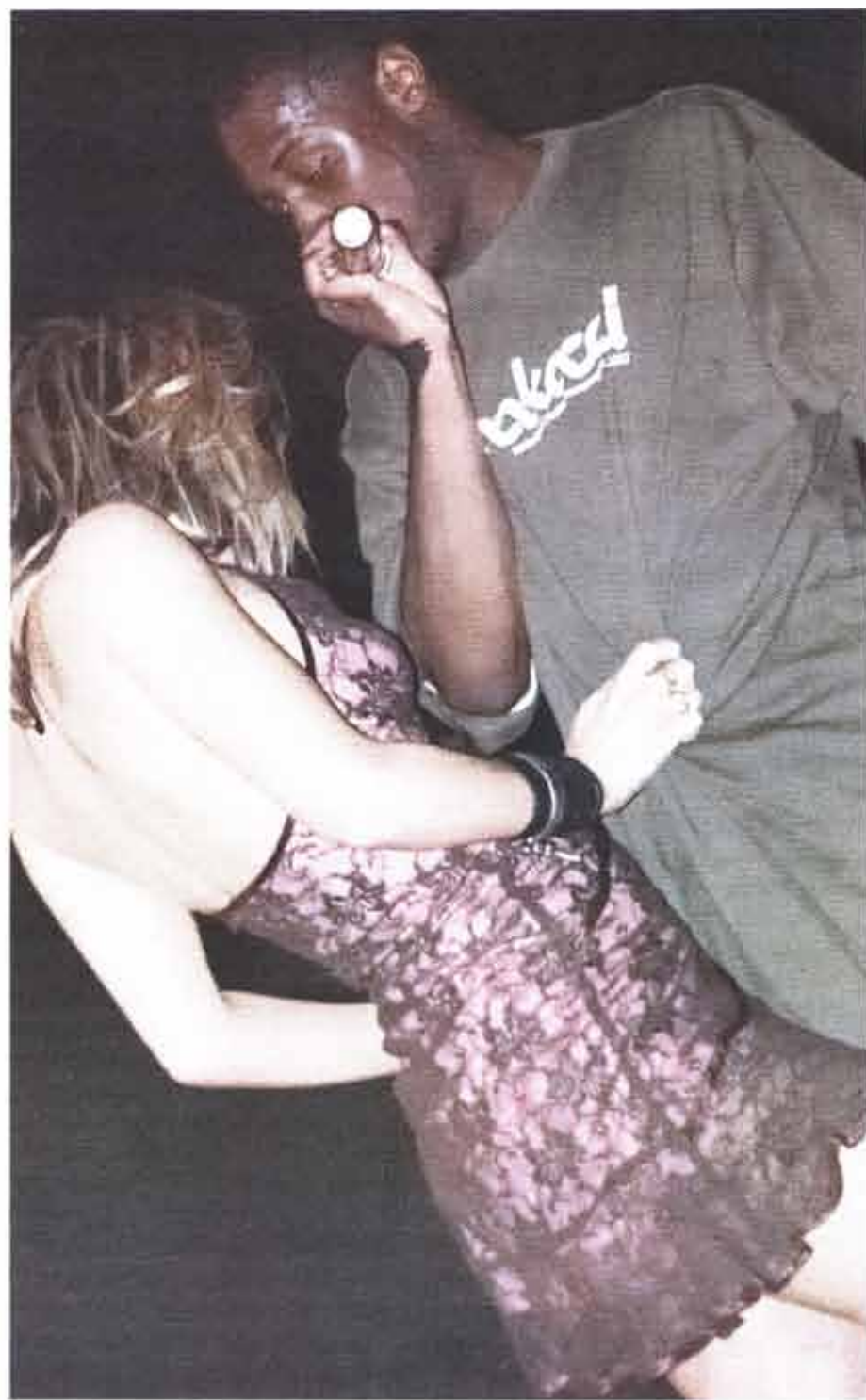
Finally, at around 1:15 am, the restless crowd was treated to the talents of JD Era. You might've seen Era around Laurier before, as he is currently a 3rd year student here, and a member of the varsity basketball team.

Considered the "Rookie of the Year" by Bishop, Era performed a solid 25-minute set for his fellow students. His

ferocious flow on "Spittin'" and lyrical prowess on "What We Have" quickly established himself as the most promising MC of the evening.

On the whole, the event had a gangsta vibe attached it. With emphasis on hustling, making money and getting hoes, the special guests seemed a little out of place for the predominately Laurier audience.

With the majority of the audience clearly there to support Era, the energy level never really picked up until he hit the stage, with the exception of the ludicrous dance competition that took place earlier in the evening.



Jordan Jecus

GANGSTA STEEZ - JD Era takes notice of one of his female flunkies.

Not your average cops & robbers film

Inside Man



5 out of 5 people found Williams

Director: Spike Lee

Release Date: March 24, 2006

Starring: Denzel Washington

DRU JEFFRIES
Film Critic

Spike Lee is one of the finest filmmakers working today. He might be one of the finest filmmakers to ever live. But he's not beyond failure.

When I heard that his latest film, *Inside Man*, sounded like a by-the-numbers heist film, I was worried. The five-part behind the scenes podcast (which is still available on iTunes), though interesting, didn't do anything to sate my fears.

So, I waited with bated breath until release day.

Inside Man stars Clive Owen as a clever bank robber and Denzel Washington, in his fourth collaboration with Lee, as the police detective on the scene.

It's a conventional heist film, so don't expect any deviations from the standard heist plot. Luckily for us, Lee has never been terribly interested in plot.

He has made some of the best films ever made, and *Inside Man* can stand proudly among them in his filmography.

Like his best work, this film is most concerned with race, New York City and what it means to be an American. These three intersect all over the place, and Lee uses every filmmaking tool at his disposal to call our attention to



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SORRY, BAD GAS - Denzel 'the bear' Washington and Clive 'the wanker' Owen both provide fantastic performances as cop and robber, respectively.

them with equal parts finesse and heavy-handedness.

It's also his most Hitchcockian film to date, and as a suspense-thriller, it plays as well as Hitch's best. There are some well-handled visual allusions to Hitchcock woven into the film, seamlessly integrated with Lee's trademark visual style.

The opening credits sequence captures New York City beautifully and lovingly. With so many films set in NYC being shot in Toronto lately, it's almost a revelation to see New York as it really is. This film captures the not only the look, but the feel of the Big Apple. This has as much to do with the Indian-sounding music blasting from the speakers as it does with the trade-

mark architecture or the names of the highway exits.

When we enter the bank, Lee calls our attention to the racial diversity of the city. Ultimately, however, these racially divergent people are congregating together in a bank—where else? Welcome to America. Spike Lee does not act in this film, but I was often reminded of his character Mars from *Do The Right Thing*—like him, these people "gots ta get paid!" The American/capitalist mindset transcends race, and 50 Cent said it all when he named his autobiographical film *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*.

The emotional climax of the film takes place in the most American of settings—a barber

shop with a small statuette of a firefighter and at least two American flags cluttering the mise-en-scène. *Inside Man* is, like Lee's *The 25th Hour*, a quintessential document of post-9/11 America.

Last year, Clive Owen was smart enough to turn down the coveted role of James Bond. Good for him, I say: he'd be better suited to play the villain, anyway!

He spends about half of the film in Claude Rains's *Invisible Man* get-up, sunglasses hiding the intensity of his eyes and a cloth hiding the rest of his permanently-stubbed face. Like Hugo Weaving in *V For Vendetta*, Owen's characterization is so strong that the mask barely even registers. I hope

that Willem Dafoe, who is also in *Inside Man*, took notes in case *Spider-Man* director Sam Raimi ever requires him to reprise his Green Goblin role.

At the end of the film, Lee certainly has fun twisting the conventions of film genre. Washington's character, hat and all, is ripped straight from an old "blaxploitation" film, but it's not until the last scene that we see him in his element. I got the impression that the events documented in *Inside Man* comprised, by white standards, the most normal day of this character's life.

Until September, check out Dru's film reviews on-line at <http://dru-jeffries.livejournal.com/>

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Production and Design

BRYN BOYCE
Production Manager

The joys of producing a newspaper are varied and numerous. The *real* production of *The Cord* doesn't involve any of that fancy writin' or photo takin'... No, it's about font choice, coherence and eye appealing designs that entice the reader into actually finishing an article rather than flipping to another page or worse, *The Toronto Sun*.

Production is the mindfuck you never knew existed - it plays off the aesthetic preferences you never even knew you had.

You, as a reader, like continuity. Fonts matter to you because you enjoy patterns, but you don't realize it. You typically look at the top left part of the page first then scan over to the right and down to the middle of the page. You usually look at the top right corner last. You prefer larger photos in colour and shorter articles. You have attention deficit disorder.

As *The Cord* draws the curtains on another year, please remember to focus on the look of the paper and not just the 'ideas'. To the left are all the covers that landed on your desk, toilet or garbage can this year along with a taste of what we felt to be the most engaging designs that we could muster.

To those hiccups that kept me awake long into the night ... a long, sad goodnight.